SLINGSHOT

A Defining Moment

Thousands head to Seattle to shut down World Trade Organization summit

"We are no longer writing the rules of interaction among separate national economies. We are writing the constitution of a single, global economy."

Renato Ruggiero, former Director-General of the WTO

By S. Finch

Thousands of activists from around the world will gather November 29-December 3 in Seattle to stage massive protests against the largest trade gathering ever held on U.S. soil. The World Trade Organization, an international trade body with the authority to enforce legally binding agreements and mediate disputes over trade barriers, will be holding a ministerial summit to determine the WTO's agenda for the coming decade. Everyone from steelworkers and AIDS activists to Zapatistas and radical environmentalists are gearing up to march, protest, educate and organize to ensure the anti-democratic forces of globalization are thwarted. "This is the time to really draw a line in the sand and say this is the largest and most influential corporate gathering of the millennium, and it is not going to happen." Said John Sellers, director of the Berkeley-based Ruckus Society.

Since its inception four years ago, the power of the World Trade Organization has grown rapidly, evolving into a bureaucracy of such size and power that it now determines whether national laws on such matters as environmental protection and food safety violate international rules. The WTO is a powerful global commerce agency, one of the main mechanisms of corporate globalization. While its supporters say it's based on "free" trade and contend it promises economic gains for member countries, in fact, the WTO is designed to create a system of corporate managed trade that leaves no room for human concerns. The WTO is systematically gutting worker, consumer, and environmental protections, and trying to deprive individual countries of the right to make their own laws-especially when those laws might conflict with trade. Under this system, economic decisions are made with the private sector in mind rather than the social and environmental costs.

The confrontations in Seattle will define how the bridge to the 21st century will be built and who will be crossing it – corporations or civil society

Often referred to as "neoliberalization", this system undermines environmental rules, health safety and labor laws to provide transnational corporations with an increasingly cheap supply of wage laborers and natural resources. As trade has expanded over the last 25 years, the median wage in the U.S. has actually fallen. There is no doubt that increasing trade and falling wages are related. As American workers compete with workers around the globe in countries without any standards for labor or human rights, trade creates a "race to the bottom" for wages and working conditions.

For example, if the U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) wants to regulate gas content in order to reduce air pollutants, it must be careful that these decisions don't impinge on the plans of foreign producers. This became a reality when the government of Venezuela, on behalf of its gas producers, challenged EPA regulations on gasoline quality at the WTO. In 1997, the WTO ruled in their favor. The EPA subsequently changed its regulations, weakening its ability to enforce federal air quality standards.

The WTO and other international trade

Continued on page 10

Not Set In Stone

Juvenile Crime Prevention Act will doom next generation to a life of crime

by Aryn Faur

When voters go to the polls on March 7, 2000, they will be asked to vote on a ballot initiative with the innocuous title, "Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act." With such a title, there would appear little need to read the fine print. But the juvenile crime initiative, if passed, will have repercussions that outstrip the now infamous "Three strikes and you're out" ballot initiative.

The initiative will mandate that most teenagers over 14 committing felonies be tried in adult court, and be processed through the California Department of Corrections instead of the California Youth Authority. What's the difference between these two systems? The juvenile justice system has operated under the assumption that children need to be treated differently than adults, and its official objective, since the early seventies, has been treatment and rehabilitation. Police, probation officers and judges are given leeway on whether to book a juvenile or send them home to their parents, to decide whether a child should be incarcerated, put in a group home, or funneled to drug rehab or other social services.

This flexibility emphasizes intervention in a child's life to prevent them from becoming repeat offenders who will end up in San Quentin prison. Simply put, the assumption is that a child's future is not written in stone. The adult system, on the other hand, focuses almost exclusively on punishment, in the form of longer and longer prison sentences. The Three Strikes initiative, which mandates a life sentence without parole for people convicted of three serious felonies, has resulted in the growth of a billion dollar prison industry. Private corporations, like the Corrections Corporation of America, contracted by the state, construct prisons that quickly become overcrowded with new 'lifers'.

Almost every cell is now double bunked in some California's prisons. In such crowded conditions, violence and other anti-social survival strategies dominate, gangs flourish, and people become ever more likely to be a threat to society once released. Such overcrowding has been shown to cause higher rates of stress induced mental disorders and more aggression and violence.

The ballot initiative intends to destroy the separation between adult and juvenile corrections in both philosophy and facility, eliminating any attempts at helping teens to find an alternative to a life of crime or institutionalization. For example, the initiative proposes that:

- kids over 14 years old who commit capital murder or certain sex crimes be tried only in adult court.
- 30 different types of felonies be tried in adult court if the accused is 14 or older.
- kids over 16 be tried as adults for felonies if they committed a felony in the past. The court could decide the kid is 'unfit' for juvenile court and must be tried as an adult if the victim of the crime was blind, disabled, or elderly. Kids would also be considered 'unfit' if the crime falls under the category of 'hate crime' or 'gang-related crime'.
- probation be eliminated for kids who commit felonies

Continued on page 10

2000
JUBILEE 2000

Forgive The Debt

Global movement to forgive Third World debt gains momentum

by PB Floyd

As the millennium draws to a close, the international Jubilee 2000 movement to cancel the foreign debt of the world's poorest countries is gaining momentum. The loose-knit movement draws it strength from its breadth: activists from both the Third World and rich nations are cooperating to exert pressure, with significant leadership from the Third World. In the North, the movement which started primarily in the religious community is now expanding to include many groups interested in fighting economic globalization. International debt is closely tied to the ideology and practice of globalization, the trend whereby corporations are rapidly gaining supremacy over both individuals and elected local governments. Thousands supporting jubilee have formed human chains at protests around the world and Congress has recently taken up a number of debt relief bills, citing Jubilee 2000 as inspiration.

The concept of Jubilee originates in the Old Testament, which called for a "Jubilee" every 50 years in which all debts would be forgiven, slaves and prisoners freed, wealth redistributed to the poor, and the land and animals given a rest. The Jubilee 2000 campaign seeks a much more moderate goal on the occasion of the millennium: that the foreign debts of the world's 52 poorest countries be forgiven. These include countries like Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Bolivia, the Philippines, Haiti, Bangladesh. Many of these countries would have long ago been declared "bankrupt" and had their debts canceled if they were corporations. In the world of international finance, however, there is no bankruptcy law, and debts remain and fester regardless of the ability to pay.

Canceling the debts of the world's 52 poorest countries would cost about $200 billion, relative pocket change in a world economy that generates trillions of dollars annually. Moreover, most private or government lenders have already significantly discounted these loans, and the cost of buying

Continued on page 8

SLINGSHOT

Slingshot is a quarterly, independent, radical newspaper published in the East Bay since 1988.

This issue suffers from the effects of expending a good portion of the collective's energy on the new and beautiful Y2k *Slingshot* Organizer planner, created at the end of summer which is out right now! Not only are there 18 wondrous colors to stuff in your pocket, including the desert series, the wedding series, and the astrobright series, there are a bunch of rare colors of which 5 or less copies were printed. We suggest a quick search on E-Bay for the elusive bright orange. (1 for $5ppd, 4 for $15 ppd, and 10 for $30.)

Somehow we still gathered the strength to put out this Autumn issue of the paper while tortured with the same three records playing over and over again. We know this issue is a little thinner, but in the end we feel its a solid piece of work.

We publish Slingshot to inspire activism and revolution. Any time now, comrades. We're ready for the revolution and we'll be there right along with you, save a spot for us.

We're always looking for writers, artists, photographers, editors, distributors and free-thinkers to make Slingshot better. We could really use some original art. Slingshot accepts unsolicited articles and letters. Please send a disk if you can. Also, this is expensive. Send $20 now!

Editorial decisions about Slingshot are made by the Slingshot collective. Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of everyone in Slingshot. We welcome debate, discussion and criticism.

Slingshot Volunteer Meeting

Volunteers interested in getting involved in Slingshot can meet with us on December 12 at 4 pm. at the Long Haul in Berkeley (see below).

Article Deadline & Next Issue Date

The projected deadline for article submission for Issue #67 is January 20, 2000. Issue #67 is expected to be out on February 3, 2000.

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Slingshot is free in the Bay Area and is available at Long Haul and Bound Together Books (1369 Haight Street in SF), plus lots of other places. Contact us if you want to distribute Slingshot for free in the Bay Area.

Subscriptions to Slingshot are $1 per issue (bulk mail pre-paid) or $2 for First Class Mail after the issue comes out. International is $2.50 per issue. Back issues are also available.

Bulk copies are available for 50 cents per issue for 6 or more copies, $1 international.

If you are a subscriber and your mailing label reads "last issue: 66" this is your last issue. Send $ or a card or you'll be removed from the list. Prisoners get a year free, renewed each year if you write us to say you're still locked up. Financial hardship subscription extensions for non-prisoners will be considered- send us a card or something. We exchange with other publications and political groups on request. Please let us know if you move. Please send $$.

Correction

Last issue's article entitled "Distribution Problems of the Small Press" recounted an unfortunate incident at Rainbow Grocery in San Francisco in which it appeared a stack of Slingshots just put in the free paper area was thrown out. We've since been informed by folks at Rainbow that this isn't their policy and that they welcome a wide variety of free papers at the store, which is obvious if you go there. We've always put Slingshot at Rainbow because they provide a great space for free papers, and because Rainbow Grocery is a great, worker-owned cooperative frequented by the kind of people we want to read Slingshot. We regret the negative tone of last issue's article and we regret printing incorrect information about Rainbow.

5 Years for Reclaim the Streets Celebrant

Anarchist Robert Thaxton, aka Rob Los Ricos, faces over 5 years in prison after being convicted of assault on a police officer for allegedly hitting a cop with a thrown rock during a riot in Eugene, Oregon June 18. The conviction, handed down September 3 after a jury trial, carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 60 months in prison. Rob will be sentenced in October.

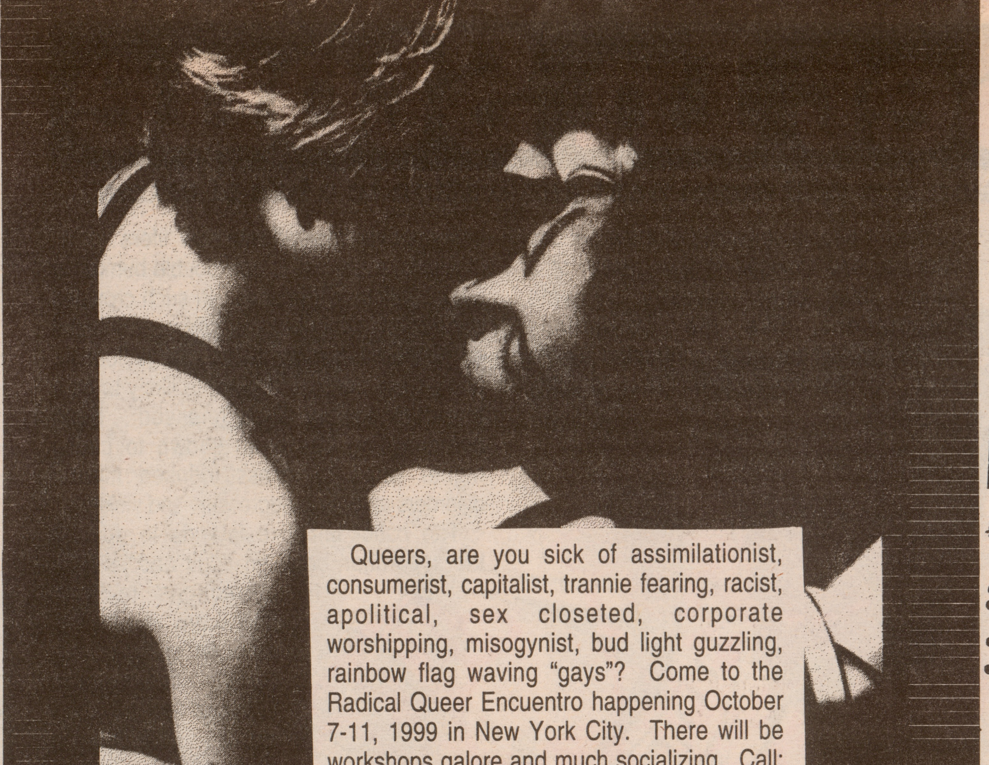
The June 18 riot was the largest in Eugene in 30 years and followed a Reclaim the Streets street party and protest, one of over 100 conducted simultaneously on June 18 against the increasing globalization of the economy. After rallying peacefully in the downtown business area, hundreds of protesters marched around downtown, blocking traffic, disrupting "business as usual" and breaking a few windows at banks and fast food restaurants. Police eventually used tear gas, much of which ended up gassing a nearby poor neighborhood, and made a number of arrests. Aside from Rob, one other person, Christopher Smith, faces felony charges. He went on trial September 21st and also faces a stiff mandatory minimum sentence if he is convicted of first degree assault.

Although Rob's trial was blatantly unfair, with every court ruling on motions being won by the prosecution, Rob not permitted to introduce evidence on the goals of anarchism, and with jurors who admitted they would not believe an "anarchist" permitted to sit on the jury, Rob was *acquitted* of attempted Assault 1 (more serious than the form of assault he was convicted of). The local media has demonized anarchists in the wake of the riot and police repression has increased: at recent demonstrations the police have forcibly "demasked" anyone with their faces covered. Rob, 39, is a frequent contributor to *Anarchy* magazine and a well-known local activist, with no previous history of violence.

Rob needs your support. Please contact Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440 for information on what you can do. They'll also have Rob's address in prison so you can send him messages of your support. --PB

REVOLUTION
REVOLUTION

Queeruption 1999!



Queers, are you sick of assimilationist, consumerist, capitalist, trannie fearing, racist, apolitical, sex closeted, corporate worshipping, misogynist, bud light guzzling, rainbow flag waving "gays"? Come to the Radical Queer Encuentro happening October 7-11, 1999 in New York City. There will be workshops galore and much socializing. Call: (718) 670-3719. Or mail: Queeruption, c/o S. Berry, P.O. box 20900, Tompkins Square Station, New York, NY 10009.

121 Center Closes

After eighteen and a half years of being a squat for anti-fascists, autonomists, punks, prison activists and lots of other radical folks, the 121 Center in south London was evicted in an early morning raid. On August 12th 150 riot police, with an armed squad and a helicopter, busted through a first floor window and arrested the eight occupiers. Police were stationed out front to guard the building while others trashed the inside. Sadly, gentrification has claimed another radical space. For more information email <friendsof121@hotmail.com> .

Come to the Infoshop

The Long Haul Infoshop, a volunteer-run collective at 3124 Shattuck in Berkeley is a radical reading room, community center and meeting space with exciting weekly events.

Monday **Women's Night**

There was a lively discussion on gender representations and porn. There are movie nights every second Monday of the month. We hope to have more inspiring discussions in the future. Come on down and help us plan.

Tuesday

Come see the especially sexy Tuesday night staffers before the Anarchist study class 8-10pm. Humane Services for the Mentally Crisesed from 6-8pm.

Wednesday

The night of the Anarchist Sewing Circle. Join us for quilting,sewing, knitting, or other crafty sewing projects and hear Heather's exciting life stories.
Food not Bombs meets at 8:30.

Thursday

Video night with some popcorn. Sign up for an event on the calender.

Friday

Open every second Friday for the post East Bay Critical Mass party -usually includes dinner and dancing or music.

Sunday

Cafe Night continues with yummy vegan dinners to support radical organizations, projects or events. 7:30 p.m.

Internet Room

We're in the last stages of refurbishing and repainting a Long Haul office for an internet room which will house 3 computers with a connection to the internet. The internet will be open during Infoshop hours.

Long Haul Infoshop
3124 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley • 510 540-0751

NO FREE SPEECH IN CHAttanooga

Three activists, Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, Damon McGhee and Mikail Musa Muhammad, were arrested in Chattanooga, Tennessee following a large rally against police brutality on May 19, 1998. The rally was held to protest the police killings of Montail Collins and Kevin McCullogh in two separate incidents. Many in the community didn't believe that the killings had occurred in self defense.

The three activists are members of the Coalition Against Police Brutality and they were scheduled to give a presentation to the city council on the evening of May 19th. When the time came to give the presentation though, City Council chairman David Crockett would not allow Lorenzo to speak. Lorenzo took the mic and tried to read his statement but he was then beaten and arrested by the police along with Damon and Mikail who came to Lorenzo's defense. The three go to trial October 28,1999 for violating Tennessee's "disruption" law, which is a misdemeanor charge that says it's unlawful to disrupt a public meeting, which curtails the right of free speech. They face up to a year in prison if convicted.

For more information contact: The Committee to Defend the Chattanooga 3, 2014 Citico Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404.

OCTOBER 22

PROTEST AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

On October 22, thousands of people will pour into the streets for the 4th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation. People will gather at 2 p.m. for a march from 24th and Mission Streets, going to a rally at San Francisco City Hall at 4 p.m. Protesters will march from Santa Cruz to the demonstration and the rally will be followed by an evening indoor cultural program.

According to the call for the action issued by the October 22 Coalition to Stop Police brutality, "On October 22nd we put forward a radically different vision of society based on social and economic justice. A society that ensures public safety by guaranteeing basic human rights of housing, food, health care and socially meaningful work. A society that rests on the principle that all people must be free from oppression in order to be healthy and safe. We work for a society without police brutality and an end to the system that legitimizes and utilizes social violence in order to survive. On October 22nd we continue our work building movement for radical social change.

"On October 22nd we protest the entire system of race, gender and class oppression that the police, criminal justice system and prison industrial complex regulate, enforce and maintain. Through the tactics of violence against our bodies, of fear and intimidation against our consciousness, of collective punishment against our communities - the strategy of race and class segregation is carried out.

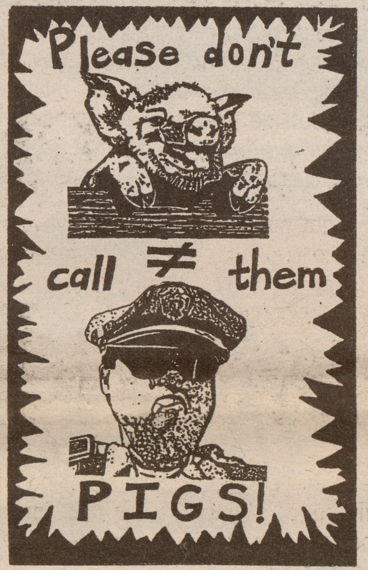
"On October 22nd we challenge the politics of law and order; of punishment and privilege. We challenge the scapegoating of young people, the criminalization of people of color and the incarceration of poor and working class people. We challenge the logic of a society that values profit before people and a system that creates private corporate power while simultaneously destroying public community power."

This promises to be an exciting fall for the October 22nd Coalition, as the first week of October will mark the release of the 2nd Edition of the Stolen Lives Book. Stolen Lives documents over 2000 known cases of murder by law enforcement in the United States during the 1990's.

As part of the nationwide Stolen Lives Project, Bay Area artist/activists have produced the Stolen Lives Walls. They resemble tombstones, with names, dates, locations, and descriptions of how people were killed. The October 22nd Coalition works with family members of victims of police murder to bring out the stories of those whose lives have been stolen in this epidemic of police brutality. Family members from all over Northern California are available for interviews and speaking engagements.

For more information about October 22nd in the Bay Area, please call Karen Martin at (415) 864-5153 (office), (510) 464-4563 (voicemail), or email oct22sf@energy-net.

For more information about community copwatching and police accountability contact Copwatch 510.548.0425 and the Third Eye Movement and the Bay Area Police Watch both at 415.551.4844. For more information about the prison industrial complex check out the Prison Activist Resource Center 510.845.8813 or www.prisonactivist.org. For more information about the criminalization of poor people and anti-poverty organizing contact the Coalition on Homelessness 415.346.3740 and Food Not Bombs in the East Bay 510.644.4187 or SF 415.675.9928.



CALL FOR BLACK BLOCK AT MARCH

Join the Anarchist Contingent at the October 22 Protest to Stop Police Brutality in San Francisco. The march starts at 2 at 24th St. and Mission.

Why do we need an anarchist contingent? Anarchists and anti-authoritarians are involved in a wide range of struggles and work with many different organizations. We work for economic and social justice and argue that this system built on race, gender and class oppression will never allow for real equality and liberty. It is important that we make ourselves and our politics visible in the wider activist/radical movement. It is important that we bring our creativity, our art, our music and our visions of radical social change to this march. Anarchist contingents are a great oppurtunity to strengthen our community and add our voice to the larger struggle for social change.

A driving force behind the anarchist contingent is that we visibly show our support for the struggle to end police(brutality), repression and the criminalization of a generation. As anarchists, we oppose the state. The police, the criminal justice system and the prison industrial complex are powerful elements of state power that significantly impact many people's lives in negative ways. The anarchist contingent is an oppurtunity to protest not only the few bad apples, but the whole rotten system.

We also contribute directly to the march itself - through drums, art, puppets, banners, flags and free food. We want marches to be invigorating and inspiring. We want marches that are reflective of the diverse and vibrant activist movements that give them life.

What should you bring to the anarchist contingent? Bring massive banners, drums, puppets, black flags, black and red flags, black and green flags, signs, noisemakers, your friends and family and your passion for a world that creates neither the brutalized nor the brutalizer.

LORI BERENSON

STILL NOT FREE

by Kristen Gardner

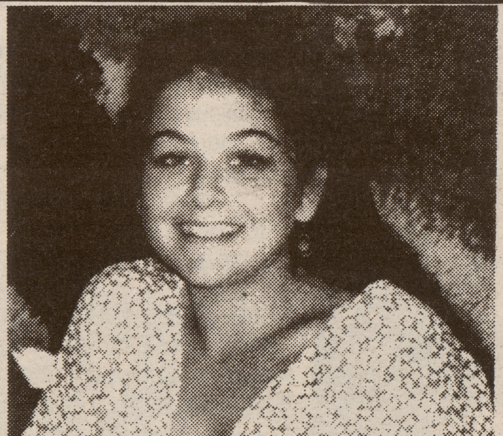
Lori Berenson was arrested in November of 1995 in Peru on charges of aiding the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). After being held almost incommunicado, interrogated and psychologically tortured for weeks, Lori was tried by a hooded, secret military tribunal. Without any chance to defend herself, she was convicted and given a life sentence. Lori has maintained her innocence and her commitment to social justice throughout this terrifying experience.

Lori was in Peru to research and write about the political and economic situation in that country for US publications. The fact that she was critical of the Peruvian government and the US involvement there was clear to the Peruvian government due to interviews she conducted of Peruvian Congress members where she asked questions about uncomfortable topics. Since her arrest she has continued to express her concern for the people of Peru and about the treatment of political prisoners, which aggravates the Peruvian and US governments.

There is no other US citizen imprisoned abroad on political charges. Generally US activists are deported, possibly held on drug charges or sometimes killed. In this case there is an interesting interplay between international political and economic forces and this historical moment in Peru that has led to Lori's incarceration and a lack of action on the part of the US government to win her freedom.

In the 1980's the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank broke off interactions with Peru ostensibly for failure to pay on its large debt. However it was commonly known that the financial institutions were unhappy with Peru's slow movement toward a market economy and it's failure to reign in the Shining Path guerrilla movement. A financially isolated Peru suffered hyperinflation and devastating poverty. In 1990 Alberto Fujimori was elected president on the promise of moving the country toward a market economy and ending the internal war. He quickly instituted harsh economic reforms and then negotiated a restructuring of Peru's debt with the World Bank and IMF and courted foreign corporations into Peru.

By 1992, the Peruvian Parliament raised a series of complaints that Fujimori was instituting changes too rapidly, that he was selling Peru to the highest bidder, and that the majority of Peruvians would not benefit from the new market economy. When they tried to alter his programs, Fujimori rewrote the constitution and reformed both the Parliament and the Judiciary. He became the effective-dictator of Peru. He instituted a harsh military court designed to imprison anyone the government considers remotely suspicious. The judges are masked, the trials are secret, defendants are not allowed to present evidence in their defense and the conviction rate is 97%.



Peru now has one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America and a poverty rate of over 50%. Fujimori's economic policies are only drawing support from the elite in Peru and international investor countries. In order to bolster his support within Peru, Fujimori leans heavily on his triumph over the internal war and deals with dissent by a reign of terror. People rarely speak out for fear of being the next journalist to be kidnapped or ordinary citizen accused of terrorism.

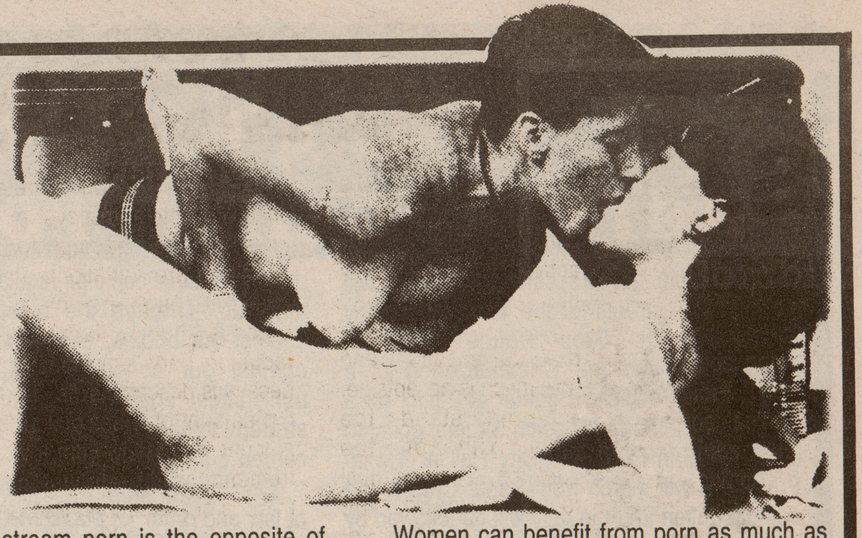
Meanwhile, the US is enjoying its beneficial relationship with Peru. We provide millions of dollars in aid every year for the military and the war on drugs there. Some in Peru believe that the US wants to establish a military base in the Andes to keep an eye on the unrest in neighboring countries. So, despite international recognition from the UN High Commission on Human Rights, Amnesty International and others that Lori is being arbitrarily detained and that Peru has broken multiple international human rights agreements, the US State Department continues to cast doubt on Lori's innocence in order to excuse the US government for its inaction on her behalf.

We need to create a level of pressure within the US that forces our government to take action for Lori and for the thousands of other prisoners unjustly held in Peru. And most of all, we need to continue the work for social justice that Lori has dedicated herself to in order to end the institutionalized violence that reigns in Peru.

For more information, contact the Committee To Free Lori Berenson, PO Box 339, Berkeley CA 94701, 510-893-4648 x201, kgardner@alum.mit.edu, www.FreeLori.org. To send letters of support to Lori, mail them to her care of her parents, 320 E. 25th #2AA, New York, NY 10010. Letters must be in spanish and cannot mention anything political or anything about her case.

Radical Porn

Combining the absurd with the vulgar



by Balin M.

In capable hands, pornography can be a tool of the revolution. The current oppressive system maintains itself by controlling women's and men's minds and bodies. Although feminists have long criticized porn as an agent of this oppression, it is worth examining the radical role porn can play in empowering us to reclaim our bodies.

Patriarchy couples two sexes, male and female, with two genders, man and woman, and scripts a complex interaction of power and submission, bold force and coy allure. This bipolar system is bullshit. Each individual consists of a far more complex combination of gender characteristics and erotic tastes.

San Francisco
Lesbians
8

When we celebrate sex and our individualized erotic tastes, we deal a blow to patriarchy. Making our own pornography is a radical act. Taking back our personal eroticism through art can help us deal with past damaging sexual experiences. Thinking about what really gets us off can clue us in on how we relate to people in general. In producing our own erotic images, we can re-initiate the queer, genderbending, non-traditional, wacky, absurd aspects of our sexuality denied by the patriarchy. We can become more comfortable with taking sexual risks. Women can reclaim and explore the aggressive, forceful, intense aspects of their sexuality, aspects usually assigned to men. Images of women being sexual with other women for their own pleasure are particularly rare, in both straight and gay culture.

Radical porn is out there today. An increasing number of women and men are producing work that goes beyond traditional erotic stereotypes. A lot of contemporary radical porn focuses on power play and bondage. These are the same themes that flavor sex in patriarchy. Playing with dominance and submission in a consensual atmosphere can be very empowering. However, this emphasis on SM neglects other erotic horizons. It would be very refreshing to see radical porn with an emphasis on creativity, humor, and wit.

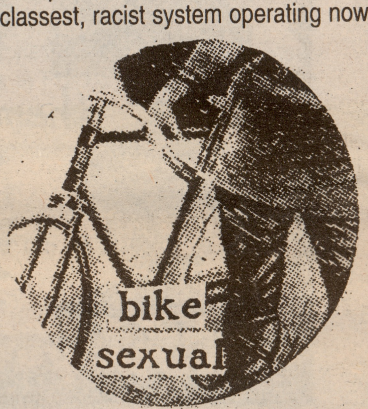
SAN FRANCISCO
LESBIANS

Most mainstream porn is the opposite of creative erotic art. Mainstream videos are formulaic productions including a set list of scenes: vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, oral sex, "girl-girl" scenes, and some sort of group sex. What doesn't appear is genuine female satisfaction.. Real female orgasms are rare, female ejaculation has been cut because of false confusion with urination, and natural female bodies are practically nonexistent. The girl-girl scenes are often done by women who don't look like they're really hot for each other.

Marketed primarily to the male consumer, mainstream porn fuels the idea that men should always be having sex. The industry markets mainstream porn as a substitute for sex when the 'real thing' is not available. Pornography should not be a substitute for sex, but a compliment, a toy for masturbation, foreplay, getting new ideas, etc.

Women can benefit from porn as much as men can. Why is women's pleasure short shrifted both on screen and off? Why aren't more pornos made with women viewers in mind? Why is there a cultural perception that women don't watch porn? Many people, women and men alike, are unwilling to recognize the aggressive side of women's sexuality. Women are not supposed to recognize their sexual needs and vocalize them. Sexually aggressive women are accused of either having 'male energy' or being a slut. Obviously sexually aggressive women do exist: mainstream culture fetishizes them as either dominitrixes or sluts.

Mainstream porn is about fetishizing one type of erotic image. Radical porn is about exploring a million different erotic activities. Big boobs, blond hair, and other, wackier fetishes might be a part of radical porn because what makes things hot is a complex combination of personal and social factors. The point is not to judge what turns other people on, but to communicate about our own desires. Being frank about sex starts a dialogue about how people can relate to each other outside of the dominant/submissive, aggressive/passive mode that sustains the sexist, classest, racist system operating now.



Queer Youth on the Move

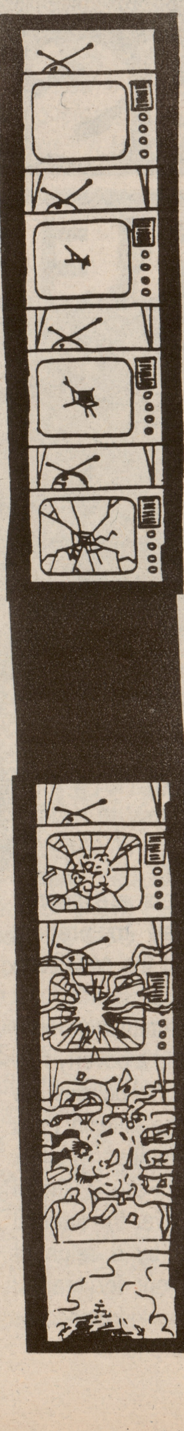
After a historical meeting between the San Francisco Unified School District's superintendent, its' School Board President and the Queer Youth Leadership Project, school Board president Dr. Juanita Owens has agreed to create an oversight committee to curb harassment of queer youth in the San Francisco school district.

In the Fall of 1996, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) passed resolution 610-8A6, which aimed to ensure the safety of queer youth in the district. Concerned that the resolution would not be enforced, the Queer Youth Leadership Project (QYLP) took on the task of monitoring enforcement. QYLP, sponsored by LYRIC has been working on the issue for the past year.

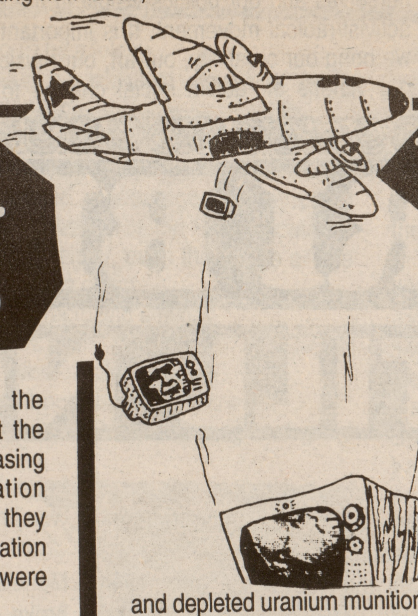
"I've been working with the Queer Youth Leadership Project for 12 months and as a recent SFUSD graduate, I've heard and seen so many horror stories: people dropping out, kicked out, beat up, made fun of. It was great that they passed the resolution, but we're the ones making the change," said Raven, a member of QYLP.

"Juanita Owens' commitment to queer youth comes at an important time, as the start of the school year puts youth back into the classrooms without complete protection since the deadline [for action under the resolution, like teacher training and incorporation of queer materials into the curriculum] passed last June and the resolution has not been completely enforced," said QYLP member Kenee Grabow.

Gay/straight alliances need to be formed, queer friendly teachers appointed and publicly announced, and safety on campus all need to be addressed. Education about queer history and cultural contributions is also a necessity.



Untold Stories



War disinformation and media complacency

By Peter Phillips

The mainstream media in the United States were aware that the Pentagon and NATO were releasing biased and false information regarding the war in Kosovo yet they continued to pass on the information to the American public as if it were gospel.

"...the media were once more asked to sort out a few kernels of facts from a barrage of distortions and half-truths from government information manipulators...baloney-ladened military briefings in Brussels...cryptic shows at the Pentagon," reports Senior correspondent for Newsday's Washington Bureau, Patrick Sloyan. Writing in June's American Journalism Review, Sloyan went on to describe how the elite of U.S. media complained to President Clinton, but failed to use their power to challenge the government.

That the U.S. Military and NATO kept the American public propagandized and ignorant about the our most recent war is a well known fact among mainstream correspondents. Foremost in the undercovered or ignored categories, but widely covered in Europe, were:

- extensive civilian deaths (2,000+);
- massive damage to non-military civilian facilities in Serbia;
- the use of illegal cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions;
- Devastating environmental pollution was created by the bombing and burning of refineries and chemical plants.

The deliberate destruction of public utilities left many Serbians without power, water and heating. Yet the Pentagon persisted in saying they were attacking only legitimate military targets. How could all of this massive civilian destruction just be collateral damage? Why was a public television station considered a legitimate military target?

Widely reported in Europe, but ignored in the US press, was the fact that twenty high-ranking judges of the Greek Council of State openly condemned the NATO attacks calling them violations of international law, and polls showed that in Greece 95% of the people opposed the bombings. NATO forces were repeatedly hindered as they passed through Greek soil. An exemplary case was how Greek resisters changed the road signs in Thessaloniki so that a convoy of NATO armored-vehicles lost its way and ended up in a vegetable market of the town instead of at the Greco-Macedonian border.

The U.S. government felt that foreign press coverage was so out of control that it became necessary to permanently create a new International Public Information Group (IPI), made up of top military, diplomatic and intelligence officials, to coordinate U.S. resources to "influence the emotions, motives, objective reasoning and ultimately the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and individuals." (Washington Times 7/28/99) This new IPI organization will attempt to squelch or limit uncomplimentary stories regarding U.S. activities and policies reported in the foreign press. IPI is de facto censorship as it will use governmental resources to repress foreign news stories that may reach the American public.

The U.S. government already uses private public relations consultants to spin and distort news stories on a daily basis to favor specific ideological perspectives. How far will the mainstream media in the U.S. be willing to go in ignoring this issue?

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Radiation: *We're Still Clueless*

NUKE WASTE
DANGER

Since the 1940's when the first atomic bombs were developed, activists and scientists alike have struggled with the issue of radiation exposure and how much is acceptable. To understand the complexity of the question, it is essential to understand the different sources of radiation and the different ways we can be exposed.

There is little agreement about acceptable doses of radiation. Most information on radiation exposure comes from people exposed to radiation from weapons blasts in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is hard to apply this information to the question of what low doses are okay. Is the effect linear, implying that if high doses cause a lot of damage, low doses cause a small amount of damage? Or is there a threshold level of exposure, below which a our immune system can handle the damage done by radiation? What are the cumulative effects of low level radiation? Some studies suggest that low levels of radiation are actually beneficial: one study reports lung cancer deaths decreasing with increasing levels of radon, a radioactive gas that naturally comes out of the earth and often collects in homes (Cohen and Colditz, 1995). Another study found that when parents are exposed to ionizing radiation (high energy radiation that can do biological damage), there is no negative genetic effect in their kids (Neel, 1995). But there are also studies that do show significant genetic damage and increased cancer rates. Native Americans and others who have been exposed to radiation in western states have been ignored by many radiation stidies (see Kuletz, 1998).

What exactly is radiation, and where does it come from? Radiation is energy in the form of a wave (like a sound wave or light) or a moving particle (like an electron). Radiation is hitting us all the time. The more energy the radiation has, the more it is likely to do biological damage. Our bodies can deal with low-energy radiation, like light or sound waves- you won't get cancer from your lamp. You would have to stand in front of a microwave or a computer monitor for a really long time before damage is done (although people are still trying to figure out the long term health effects). The problem with nuclear radiation is that it is very high energy-it has enough energy to change chemical bonds in our bodies by knocking off electrons. Radiation that can knock off electrons is called ionizing radiation.

Nuclear radiation is released when an unstable isotope decays, or gets rid of extra energy in an attempt to become stable. (Isotopes are variations of an element with different numbers of neutrons). Some isotopes decay quickly, while some release radiation very slowly. How fast an isotope decays is described by the half-life, which tells the amount of time it takes for half of a given amount of the isotope to decay. Half-lives vary tremendously, from less than a second to millions of years. If an isotope has a very long half-life, it is decaying very slowly, which means little radiation is being released at any one point in time. For workers dealing with radiation, it is much less dangerous to work with isotopes with long half-lives than short-lived nuclides. Of course, the longer a half-life, the more problematic the isotope may be for future generations.

When isotopes of heavy atoms like uranium and plutonium decay, they emit alpha particles, essentially a helium nucleus. Alpha particles are heavy and interact easily with matter- this means that when the particles hit your skin, they lose all their energy quickly and don't travel past the dead top layer of your skin, where they won't cause any problems. However, alpha particles are a big problem when they get inside your body, through a cut or your mouth or nose, precisely because they transfer their energy so quickly in such a small area. In air, alpha particles travel only about 3.5 cm before they lose all their energy and stop being dangerous.

Some elements decay by emitting beta particles, which are fast-moving electrons. Beta particles interact with matter in pretty much the same way as alpha particles, but to a much lesser extent, so they can travel a lot farther through matter before losing all their energy. Beta particles can penetrate our skin, but a thin sheet of aluminum (or something similar) will shield us from beta radiation. Inside our bodies, beta particles deposit less energy than alpha particles, but can still cause harm.

If most of our radiation dose is from natural sources, is the normally small dosage from synthetic sources like fallout significant? Yes!!

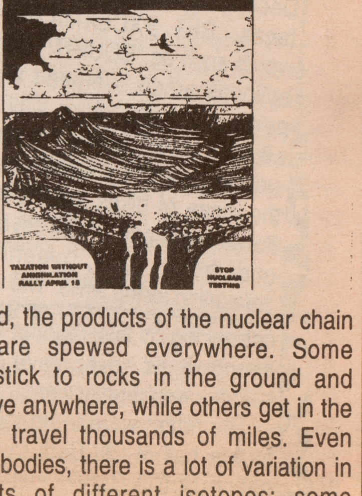
When an isotope decays by emitting alpha or beta particles, the "daughter" isotope that is produced usually still has extra energy. To complete the decay process, gamma radiation is emitted. Unlike alpha and beta particles, gamma radiation is electromagnetic radiation like X-rays, radio waves, and visible light. Electromagnetic radiation is a bunch of little energy packets called photons that travel so quickly they look like a continuous stream (they travel at the speed of light). Gamma rays are dangerous because their photons have a lot more energy than the photons of light and other lower energy radiation. When gamma rays actually hit something (like a molecule), all this energy is deposited at once, which is very bad. However, there is a low probability that the gamma ray will actually hit one of your molecules head on. When people are working with radioactive materials in small amounts, they usually worry much more about alpha particles than the gamma rays.

There are several other types of decay which happen very rarely and thus don't directly cause much of a health risk. Some of the very heavy elements decay by spontaneous fission--they split into smaller atoms without any outside influence, which is pretty cool. A somewhat rare but important kind of decay involves the emission of a neutron, which is how the chain reactions that produce nuclear energy occur. In a chain reaction, an isotope, usually uranium-235 or plutonium-239, is bombarded by a neutron and splits into two smaller atoms. On average, two neutrons are released during the split; these neutrons go on to hit other atoms and thus sustain the reaction. Energy is released because the mass of the two smaller atoms is slightly less than the mass of the original atom, and remember Einstein's gem, $E = mc^2$. In a nuclear power reactor, the goal is obviously to control the reaction so the energy is released over a long period of time. In a nuke bomb, the chain reaction is not controlled and the energy is released all at once (like a giant sneeze).

Under normal circumstances (when a nuclear bomb is not exploding overhead), most of the radiation we are exposed to comes not from nuclear fallout or nuclear waste, but from natural sources. Rocks and soil, especially granite and clay, have a lot of naturally-occurring uranium and thorium; these radioactive elements are also in the bricks and concrete made from natural materials. The amount of radiation coming from the soil varies- in most places around 40 mrem per year is emitted, but in Kerela, India, about 100,000 people receive 1300 mrem per year from the soil, and in Brazil about 100 people live in an area where 12,000 mrem per year is emitted naturally from the ground. (A mrem is unit of radiation exposure.)

We are also hit by radiation naturally in the air. The solar system is filled with many different kinds of fast-moving particles, which actually cause quite a problem in space travel. Folks estimate that during a trip to Mars, cosmic radiation would destroy about 0.1% of a person's cerebral cortex! Most of these particles are annihilated when they collide with the Earth's atmosphere. The remaining particles compose a significant amount of the radiation dose we receive every day. People living in the mountains receive more radiation than people at sea level, as do folks flying on airplanes. Interestingly, people living in these high-exposure areas do not have increased incidences of cancer. This may mean that people can adapt to higher levels of radiation.

If most of our radiation dose is from these natural sources, is the normally small dosage from synthetic sources like fallout significant? Yes!! Many of the nuclides released during weapons explosions and nuclear reactor accidents are not found in nature. (All radioactive isotopes were found in nature at some earlies point, but only radioisotopes with half-lives long compared to the earth's age are common now). When a nuclear weapon is exploded, the products of the nuclear chain reaction are spewed everywhere. Some isotopes stick to rocks in the ground and hardly move anywhere, while others get in the water and travel thousands of miles. Even inside our bodies, there is a lot of variation in the effects of different isotopes: some isotopes collect in our stomachs, others get incorporated into our bones.


TAXATION WITHOUT ANNIHILATION RALLY APRIL 15
STOP NUCLEAR TESTING

Because of the great variation in isotope behavior, it is essential to look at the behavior of specific nuclides when estimating the effect of a nuclear explosion or accident on local people. Unfortunately, nuclear regulatory agencies try to calculate the radiation dose using generalized models which don't take into account the local environment. It is a huge task to look at how all different radionuclides move through all different geologic environments, but this information is pretty much essential to truly understanding the effects of synthetic radiation on our health and the environment.

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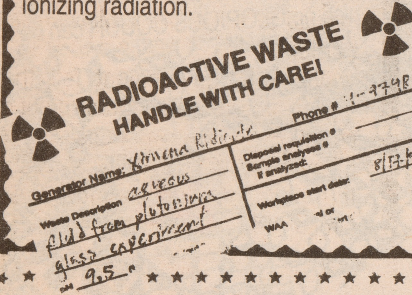

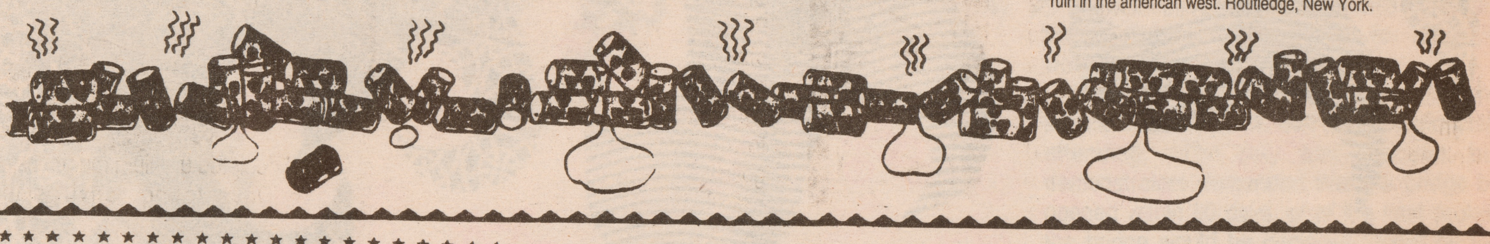

Berkeley Liberation Radio:

On Again, Off Again???

As *Slingshot* goes to press, the stage is being set for another confrontation between micro-powered radio broadcasters in Berkeley and the Federal Communications Commission. Soon after the birth of Berkeley Liberation Radio a new community radio station replacing Free Radio Berkeley which was shut down by the FCC in 1998, the FCC visited the new station September 15 with a notice demanding that they immediately cease operating. The free speech activists operating BLR have vowed to stay on the air, regardless of FCC threats. As of this writing, the station is on the air.

Operating at 104.1 FM with a 38 watt home made transmitter, BLR is proving that micro-power radio (less than 100 watts) is a good way for people to communicate with their neighbors. With the closure of Free Radio Berkeley in June 1998, a vital link to the east bay community was cut. Berkeley has a tradition of free speech activism going back to the 1960's. After waiting over a year for the Federal Communications Commission to legalize low power FM broadcasting, BLR decided it was time to act. Right now the station is offering highly diverse grass roots radio between 8:00AM and midnight every day. BLR is looking for more volunteer programmers. BLR can be heard on the world wide web with an mp3 audio feed. The web address is www.berkeleyonline.net/blr and the studio phone number is (510) 665-4852. BLR would like to invite everyone to listen to us because, as DJ Luigi says, "It's better than listening to someone shouting out their window!".

Queer Kid Radio

We're doin' it for ourselves

Turn on the radio on most days and what do you hear? Corporate schlock for the most part and if you're lucky you can hear a good non-commercial station. But if you are a queer youth even on the noncorporate station there isn't five minutes of programing on a regular basis that reflects who you/we are. That's why a group of queer youth activists has started intermittent covert broadcasts from a secret location. On some Saturdays one can hear Queer Kid Radio booming over the East Bay with music, talk and general merriment of a queer nature. The diverse programmers play music by and about queers, read poetry, discuss gender and talk about what it is like being queer and young in the world today. Look for information at the Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck in Berkeley.

Squirt

Following are the contents of a mysterious scroll that the Slingshot Collective uncovered whilst on a recent archeological dig at an appar Mass-us" dialect, which one can hear spoken by natives every second Friday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Berkeley BART station durin Berkeley Critical Mass Bike Ride, which was unexpected shut down by police when it tried to reach the Berkeley Marina. Berkeley Police as a "squirt ride" because many of its participants engaged in an ongoing squirt gun fight during the ride. Critical Mass bike rides environment, and as a real life demonstration of what the world would look like if more people rode their bikes. Critical Mass bike rides a.m. and 4 and 7 p.m. on freeways everywhere. We reproduce the contents of this scroll for our readers edification and entertainment.

by Jason Meggs

In the midst of Bike Summer, with visitors from around the globe participating, a nice hefty crowd of close to 100 cyclists gathered for hot weather fun in the sun. The same number of water pistols (again 100), each inscribed "Berkeley Critical Mass", were quickly seized upon by many behelmeted devilish ones and soon an early sprinkle was enjoyed by all(most) all. As the rowdy roadsters reveled, they discovered that two jiggly-jouncin' big-ol' boxes of water balloons borne by THE COUCH, were freely available. Decorated with images of bicycles, smiley faces, BIG EXCLAMATION MARKS and words such as "SQUIRT!" and "YAY!" a hail of balloons arced overhead and splattered the pavement every which way sending pigeons aflutter and cyclists ascutter as water-weilding wetties chased one another through the maze of bikes and benches, leaping o'er flower beds and under cover of phone booths and trash cans, gleefully giggling and screaming all the while. The whole scene was so entrancing to this reporter that he hoped the throng would never leave and that the water balloons would never wane!

The riders were in no mood to dally, and it took a hail of Clif Bars to hold them back (a nation of Clif Bars?) just long enough for a couch rider to be secured. One lad from out of town, just visiting for a bit not even knowing what a critical mass was got caught up in the fun of it all and decided to give it a wide'n wild-eyed go - filling up pistols as he rolled in amazement on a bike-born plushyboat.

After this brief delay, the MASStaz ov da whiiil, antsy ta take to da striiits, den did exackly dat. Speediest ride in a long time! Out the gate with a bang! ..errr.. squirt! New riders joined from all sides as we rolled rapidly onwards. We swelled and it WAS swell. Good cheer was shared by all. One young lassie, her orange hair afire in the summer sun, proudly held her personal artistic creation high aloft at each major intersection: a large sign reading on one side, "HONK IF YOU LOVE BIKES!" and on the other, "THANKS FOR WAITING!" This delightful offering was well received by our motoring friends, who waved and cheered, rolled down windows and hurra'd, honked gaily and with fervor, and were generally quite happy to witness liberation on jubilant parade.

Telegraph rocked on its laurels in the tempest of angels borne on two wheels, wings aflutter. "Bikes! Bikes! RA RA RA!" came the call. Briefly, at the corner of Bancroft and Telegraph, the pollution of our four-wheeled friends (who musta et dino-beanz fer dinna las' naht) was a bit overwhelming for some, who crumpled coughing to the tarmac and lay heaving and gasping for breath. Fortunately the presence of large numbers of bicycles acted as a buffer and a strong wind off the Bay soon revived them and it was off to downtown, University Avenue.

Reaching the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (an egregious misnomer, for MLK was all about peace and justice not heavy deadly high-speed arterial traffic, if I may say so), the riders commemorated the shared struggle for equal access and democracy of street-KPFA, by flocculating gloriously at street-center. Flocculation is a term invented in Berkeley and indeed the ride was originally dubbed, the "Super Flocculus" after a dictionary definition of flocculus ("n. an aggregated MASS of loosely associated tufts, as in cotton"). Flocculation has come to mean the perpetual U-turn, the whirling dervish of bike-ins, the amazing spiraling carousel of glittering late-evening-sunlight spinning mesmerizing delight

Eventually, the glittering hump of the only viable route to the Berkeley Marina came into focus. BACKGROUND: This route has long been declared off-limits to bicyclists and pedestrians by the City of Berkeley, for as yet unstated reasons. This prohibition however has resulted in tremendous activism locally, our own mini "Bike the Bridge" movement resulting in millions of dollars being secured for a second bridge to the south. Unfortunately, activism has primarily focused around creating this new bridge rather than granting immediate access to the existing. Once per year the I-80 overpass is shut down and is flooded by a thousands-strong PEDESTRIAN MASS on July 4th. Other than that it serves as a post-apoCARlytic miasma of freeway on and off-ramps. So our most beautiful modes of travel are denied direct access to one of our most beautiful refuges, the park over the Bay. Although this prohibition is a major discouragement from travel to our marina area, nevertheless, experienced cyclists regularly flout the prohibition, sometimes being ticketed by the highway gestapo. Just a month previous, at SQUIRT RIDE #3, riders had approached the Marina via University only to learn that large numbers of Berkeley Police Officers still lurk about wherever bicycles may travel in packs on the second Friday of each month, for they had streamed from the sidewalks to hold weapons high and denounce and deny the passage of their two-wheeled friends. This has been the consistent treatment for 6.5 years.

But on this glorious day, August 13th, 1999, after such a wonderful officer-less ride, there were NO police officers in sight, NO ROAD BLOCK to be seen, and riders became excited that they might finally partake of the grand view aloft from this pesky platform otherwise prohibited, and sail on to the marina, where the pier beckoned with the promise of long, delicious sunsets, good company, and squirty huzzaz.

This reporter was incredulous at the lack of police presence, knowing that like clockwork, the Berkeley Police had refused velopassage for years. Indeed, the last time the cyclists had ridden the overpass (July 9, 1993) it was after taking the I-80 unFreeway in protest of its illegal and terrible lane-widening (in violation of two environmental laws), the sprawl and pollution induced by freeways, and the general lack of more sensible and equitable bicycle freeways. On that date, on this same overpass, there had been an also illegal mass-arrest of approximately 75 cyclists and one skateboarder, and the illegal confiscation of their two-wheeled steeds without property receipt (many of the nicest bikes disappeared in custody). Since that time cyclists have REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR that unFreeway riding is better left to protests, not to the monthly mass ride which benefits so from being inclusive and free. A harbinger of what was to come. But who could have stopped the gleeful stream of cycles? This reporter was too far back (interviewing a charming young woman who came all the way from New York City to squirt with impunity) to have attempted to sway the riders from their course -- and besides, we've been allowed by police to ride through the Solano Tunnel where bikes are also unconscionably prohibited -- we were recently GIVEN AN AWARD by the City Council for encouraging alternative transportation -- and the lack of police seemed to be a sign that we were finally trusted to have a good-will ride on our own. And furthermore, and who could see any such prohibitory sign through the sea of bicycles that day? Many riders had no idea that there was an issue and even this reporter, awash in the glow of such good energy flowing from such wonderful folk, had no idea what police overkill was to come. Was it a set-up?

Mounting the span, the cyclists gained spee and agitation as the thrill of BIKING TH BRIDGE swelled true within their bosoms, th riders rejoiced at their moment of liberati Just as they were descending to land a nearly to the marina side--exactly where th would have emerged from the `bike route', which no GLORIOUS COUCH can be rolled,

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ Remember Bli

On September 13th, 1899 in New York City, Henry Bliss was killed when he stepped off a streetcar and was struck by an oncoming car, making him the first person in America ever killed by an automobile. This tragic event ushered in a century of human suffering. Since his death 100 years ago, more than 5 million Americans have been killed by automobile -- more than have died in all U.S. wars. Many times that many have been maimed or crippled in automobile crashes, and twice as many have perished from diseases and cancers caused by the air pollution from car emissions.

On September 13, the anniversary of Mr. Bliss' death, hundreds of people across the United Stated attended candlelight vigils in more than 40 cities nation-wide to mourn the "bliss" that was lost when our cities and small towns were overrun with the danger and pollution of the automobile. In Oakland, the vigil was at the steps of the agency which has cheated us of safe streets and livable, walkable, bikeable, sustainable communities: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. People brought photos of loved ones who had been lost to lay in the center of the plaza, and held candles into the night.

It doesn't have to be this way.

A recent study determined that approximately 90% of pedestrians and bicyclists killed by automobile crashes were the victims of dangerous or aggressive drivers. In addition, 40 years of automobile-only planning have resulted in sprawling suburbs and the decline of our cities, requiring more and more hours stuck behind the wheel. Where once our cities were places where children could play in the streets, seniors and the disabled could cross streets safely, and public transit was efficient and readily available, people now live many miles away from their jobs, schools, and even their local stores.

This switch from well-designed cities to sprawling suburban living has not come without a dear price. We have paved over our country's best farmland, and our utilities (wate electricity, sewage, etc.) have been taxed the breaking point. Families suffer as paren are gone longer, and children are no long allowed the freedom to walk or bicycle arou their neighborhoods. A suburban child is mo likely to be killed by automobile than an inn city child is likely to be killed by guns.

The switch to automobile dependency h been driven by a "radical monopoly". Spec interests -- car companies, road buildi companies, oil companies, and developers have profited greatly by redesigning world around the automobile. This would have been possible without the help a

ride

ent religious site in downtown Berkeley. The scroll is written in the distinct "Critical g Berkeley Critical Mass. This scroll appears to tell the tale of the August 13 1999 issued 36 citations. The peaceful ride, held on a warm day, was apparently known are conducted monthly all over the world to agitate for a more bike friendly urban are an alternative to the daily car critical masses which occur between 6 and 10

WHEELCHAIRS nor those without the ability to haul their bikes up long flights of stairs-- the riders were besieged by a screaming Berkeley Police Car, speeding recklessly in the WRONG DIRECTION directly towards the bicycle traffic. This officer leapt from his car with weapon drawn and demanded that two of the hundred-strong bicycle brigade stop, after blocking the road with his vehicle on a jagged angle across lanes.

Soon there were numerous officers from every direction, shutting down the entire bridge for the next hour, apparently to illustrate to motorists how difficult it is for bicyclists to navigate these days... In their shining moment of equity and fairness, police required motorists to act as bicycles. Motorists were then required to walk their four-wheeled vehicles on the bike route which bikes are normally bound to tread: on the sidewalk across two freeway offramps, down two flights of stairs, across another offramp, around a winding path strewn with urine, motor oil and glass, then pick their motor car up and carry it over numerous train tracks, and through the pilons, past the bus stop and onto a little out-of-the-way street strewn with tire-popping debris, before mounting their petrol-carts again and combusting along their merry little tailpipe-poppin' way.

In an effort to show their two-wheeled friends (we the harbingers of freedom, sustainability and true democracy, the cyclists on our too-long prohibited overpass) what SPECIAL GUESTS they were, anyone who seemed like a leader in any respect (whether by Asserting Her Rights, or by Smiling and Explaining the Situation, or by Looking Authoritative from the sidewalk, or by Holding a Video Camera, or by Hauling the Couch, or by Being Known Generally As The Leader of Critical Mass) was promptly taken as a SPECIAL GUEST and given honorary jewelry to wear around the wrists. This jewelry was very precious to late 20th Century man and was used abundantly on fellow citizens at the slightest provocation. Any hint of having spirit or creativity, or care for another, was rewarded in that curious, long-extinct society by the gifting of these special silvery "cuffs".

The special guests were then lead to a large Special Guest Van, also known as the "Black Milktruck of Death" (BMOD), the drunken-driven Ebony steel box which, with glittering lights and fumes asunder, has many times followed the two-wheeled liberators throughout the town, sometimes burping with resounding volume, sometimes weaving across three lanes in an attempt to keep the happy two-wheelers from reuniting with their four-wheeled friends. Today like Jaba in his hut the BMOD oozed green antifreeze bile fluid in buckets, which collected in small ponds strewn across the roadway, apparently too excited by the squirtacious nature of the day and unable to control its gonorrhea-like, toxic ejaculate, caustic green oozing ponds entreating now extinct Bay shore frogs to leap from lillypad to lillypad on the liberated space above ten ever-growing lanes of car-only I-80...

Some of the SPECIAL GUESTS were welcomed with such enthusiasm that they were literally swept off their feet, such was the hospitality and eagerness to please of the Berkeley Police. One was even left in a loving puddle of motor oil, another was literally dragged tens of feet across the street on her behind.

From deep within the BMOD, this reporter was able to unbuckle himself crawl over bodies to the dirty besplattered metal-meshed windows and count 23 police officers in all, 13 police cars, and multiple motorcycles and mounted patrol bicycles. The Clog the Highway Petrol (CHP) were also present, clearly gloating over the traffic congestion they were engineering.

All eight of these SPECIAL GUESTS, save one woman who was released and no arrest filed, were taken to enjoy the pinnacle accomplishment of Berkeley's upper echelons: a narrow-halled maze of green and orange, layered dimly lit under locking doors upon locking doors, into which they were lead to be fed the finest food which Berkeley's high society has devised: glossy-crusted bread and oily-afloat kool-aid in a paper cup. Note the special touch of paper, as styrofoam is illegal in Berkeley.

These SPECIAL GUESTS were then examined by the most highly trained scientists and doctors of the great society, Berkeley California. The curious markings on their fingertips were recorded for future artists to ponder, and their visages were captured such that future generations of wondering young minds could know what SPECIAL GUESTS had come to bring the two-wheeled goodness to Berkeley.

These seven were also examined by medics because several had suffered injuries. Especially one young man who was crying and buckled over in pain with shoulder trauma, who was taken to the emergency room. Apparently the "loving touch of kindness and hospitality" can be a little bit over-eager.

Within twenty-four hours all those inCARcerated had been released, with various charges such as "Resisting Arrest" being invented and court dates for Monday August 16th at 2 PM, Dept. 201. These special charges are Berkeley's way of continuing to learn from and cherish the presence of visionary SPECIAL GUESTS.

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support of our regional transportation planning agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

The MTC has budgeted hundreds of billions of dollars to subsidize the lucrative development of suburbs, while slashing funds to our transit services and cheating bicyclists and pedestrians from safety facilities. Less than 0.5% of the latest Regional Transportation Plan has been allocated to pedestrian and bicycle projects, yet pedestrians and bicyclists make up, at the very least, 22 times that percent of trips (11%) and 50 times that percent of traffic fatalities (25%).

Clearly, between the rapidly increasing social disease of aggressive driving, and the misuse of public dollars to create yet more driving (and with it, the frustrations that result in aggressive driving), many lives could have been saved if we had used our dollars more wisely. Residents in places with lower public transit use are 61% more likely to die in an aggressive driving crash than those where more people take train or bus.

Let's begin now to ensure that in the next century people will come before machines. Get involved in efforts to redesign our cities around people. For more information,

contact
the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, 1095 Market #215, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415 431-BIKE; the Bicycle Friendly Berkeley Coalition, 1442A Walnut, Berkeley, CA 94709, 510 549-RIDE; Greenbelt Alliance, 116 New Montgomery St. #640, San Francisco, CA 94105, 415 543-4291.

Bike Access Now!

by Bridgette Biker

Frustrated by 3 months of bureaucratic inaction, bicyclists are set to protest at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge October 30 to demand immediate bike access. Nowhere else but on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge is it so painfully obvious that bicycle access should be granted immediately. With a super-wide 12-foot shoulder as big as three standard bike lanes, the only thing keeping cyclists off the RSR Bridge is the Bay Area's transportation monopoly. Cyclists today are permitted to ride on the shoulder of the freeway on both approaches to the bridge, where the shoulder is no more than 10 feet wide, narrower in some places. Then, one must either board an expensive, infrequent bus (if one happens to be crossing during the hours of 5 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.), hitch-hike across, or risk a ticket or probable arrest.

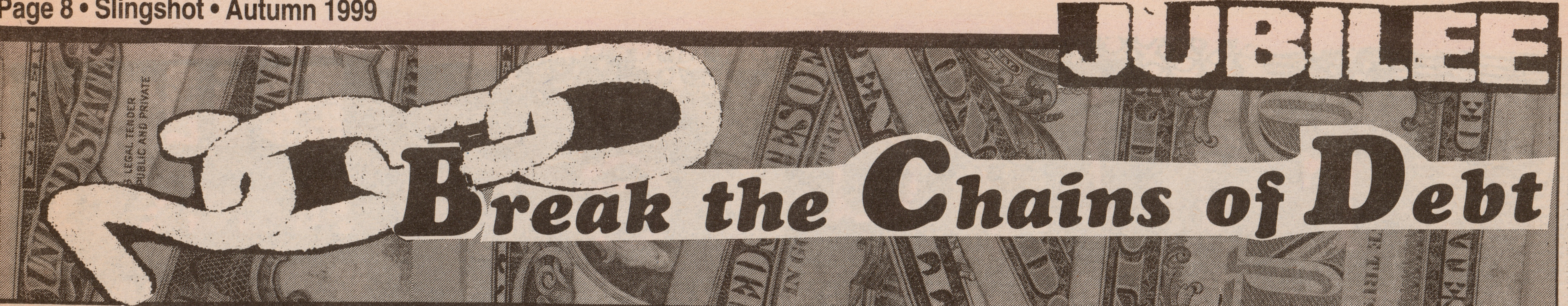
In response to demands for bike access, CALTRANS commissioned a Public Access Feasibility Study, with input from several Bay Area agencies and organizations including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the East Bay Municipal Parks and Utility District along with many local and regional bicycle, pedestrian, and disabled advocacy groups. The study concluded that it is safer to bicycle on the RSR Bridge than it is to ride on most Bay Area city streets, and that the bridge should be opened immediately. The bridge is so safe because it enjoys wide shoulders, no intersections across the entire span (where most cycling accidents occur) and long sightlines--- dream conditions for cycling.

Over 1,000 miles of freeway are already open to cyclists in California (having been deemed "safe" by CALTRANS), even though some have shoulders as narrow as 3 feet in width. CALTRANS is ignoring the results of the study which they commissioned, claiming they need more numbers to assess safety concerns. While an inept agency searches for numbers to corroborate their prejudices, cyclists grow more and more tired of the broken bureaucratic machine. The safety issue is a smokescreen for the real reason cyclists are prohibited today from the RSR Bridge.

In actuality, CALTRANS wants to preserve the shoulder for future motor vehicle use, for in 20 years the bridge is expected to have a traffic volume that necessitates a third lane. So to cater to the future needs of the single occupancy vehicle, bicyclists have been prohibited for the last 30 years from the bridge and will be prohibited for 20 more while the unused shoulder sits wasted.

The last major demonstration to demand access was on July 31, with over 200 bicyclists attending. The rally was peaceful, but demonstrators demanded that the bridge be opened within 90 days, or at the next protest the bridge would be declared "open" by the People. Since then, cyclists have been working to encourage cities bordering the bridge to pass a resolution showing support for immediate bike access. The challenge to open the bridge was issued to CALTRANS Director Jose Medina and to District 4 Director Harry Yahata. They responded that they are going to take a few more years to do ANOTHER study (as they search deeper for ANY reason to keep bikes off the bridge). Bicyclists cannot wait another decade to bicycle on a bridge which was paid for not only by drivers, but by bicyclists and pedestrians alike with a general bond measure. Cyclists must demand our right to travel.

The 90 day deadline is on October 30. Come join what should be a celebration of access, but which will probably be a protest against bureaucratic stupidity. Gather on the East Bay Side at 10:30 a.m. at the Richmond BART station. Meet in Marin at the Larkspur Ferry Landing at 11:30 a.m. Come in Costume for a Trick-or-Treat Ride. Call 510-898-3038 for more details, or check out the web site at http://www.xinet.com/bike.



JUBILEE

Break the Chains of Debt

Continued from page 1

them might be as little as 10 percent of their face value. However, Jubilee for these 52 countries would significantly ease the human suffering and political oppression attributable to the debt burden.

Modern Colonialism

For many poor countries around the world, the large payments to repay foreign debt combined with the harsh Structural Adjustment Programs imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have become a new form of colonialism. Under 19th Century colonial administration, European countries used the Third World as plantations and mines to supply them with raw materials. Political control rested in Western capitols, stripping local populations of self-determination. The colonized country received little or nothing in return. While the owing classes in Europe became fabulously wealthy, people in the Third World lived in abject misery.

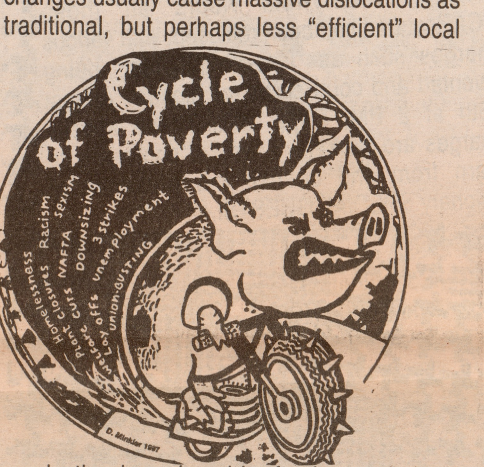
In the late 1990s, although colonialism has all but disappeared, most Third World nations still export the vast majority of their natural resources to the rich countries of the North -- Europe, the US and Japan. The Third World gets virtually nothing from these exports, since the money it earns from exports are immediately paid back to the North as interest on debt. The theft that was colonialism has been repackaged with new justifications, but the result remains the same.

Relieving the debt for the poorest countries, where the debt/export treadmill is the worst, is a positive first step. The 52 countries targeted by Jubilee 2000, containing 984 million people or one out of six of the people alive today, generally have debts so large compared to their gross national product that just paying the interest on the debt consumes the lion's share of the country's resources. Many can't even afford interest payments, and must continuously borrow more money to keep paying interest. Not only do these countries have insufficient funds remaining after debt payments to spend adequately on health and education, causing millions of people to die from preventable diseases, but the constant pressure to obtain foreign exchange currency forces an export oriented economic model. Farmers grow food for export while local people go hungry. Raw material exports must be accelerated, often savaging the environment.

In a perverse side effect of this cycle, so many Third World nations are now competing to export their raw materials that the prices for these materials has fallen dramatically over the last decade. Between 1980 and 1997, the price of sugar (in constant dollars) has fallen 73 percent, oil 65%, tin 78%, cocoa 58%, rubber 52%, rice 51%, cotton 43%, logs 32%, and on and on. As prices fall, Third World countries have to export more just to obtain the same income as before. More marginal land is pressed into service, forests logged, and undisturbed areas mined or drilled.

But even beyond the economic, social and environmental impacts of Third World debt, these countries pay a heavy price politically as their sovereignty is threatened by conditions to get new loans (often merely to avoid default under the old loans) imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. These conditions, known as "Structural Adjustment Programs", are intended to create "favorable" economic conditions to spur growth in the target nation's economy so that it can pay its debts. In reality, SAPs have disastrous effects for the vast majority of the population in countries where they are implemented, enriching the tiny segment of local people and foreign corporations who own land, factories and money.

In a typical case, a country agrees to devalue its currency, open its markets to foreign products and services, cut government subsidies for food, energy, transit etc., and sell government held utilities, factories, mines and oil companies to foreigners. These changes usually cause massive dislocations as traditional, but perhaps less "efficient" local production is replaced by foreign production, and the displaced population gets new jobs producing raw materials for export or becomes human "raw materials": low wage labor for foreign owned factories.



For example, local farmers growing rice for local consumption may not be able to compete with foreign, factory farmed rice imports. Once "free trade" is introduced under Structural Adjustment, these farmers are displaced, many moving to the city, and their land used to grow export crops using "modern" methods, also dependent on imported pesticides and imported machinery. The once self-sufficient farming economy is thus destroyed, and replaced by extreme dependence on foreign imports and foreign markets. If export commodity prices fall, the formerly self-sufficient population can't afford to buy imported food, and goes hungry.

This process is both the goal and the result of the "free trade" policies pushed by Western elites and the governments, corporations and universities they control. The heavy international debts of many of the world's poorest countries allows the IMF and the World Bank to impose these "free trade" policies with little room for resistance.

The Roots of Debt

As with Southern share croppers stuck in cycles of debt, the populations of many Third World countries were saddled with large debts through trickery or coercion. In many cases, the original loans were made by private Western banks to dictators who shipped the money off to Swiss bank accounts, used it to buy weapons to terrorize their populations, and distributed it amongst cronies and rich local supporters, often in the form of fake or useless infrastructure projects.

For example, Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos fled his country with about $10 billion stashed in Swiss banks, the result of massive corruption in which about one-third of all money loaned to the Philippines was stolen. When Nelson Mandela took power in South Africa, he was stuck with $18 billion of debt incurred by the apartheid regime, largely dooming chances for radical improvements in social programs. When normalized relations with Vietnam were restored, Vietnam was forced to accept the debts of the US backed South Vietnamese government which had been defeated. During military rule in Brazil and Argentina, tens of billions were borrowed and then stolen or used for repression.

In these cases, because the borrowed money was not invested in effective development or infrastructure, it failed to improve the lives of the population in any way. The Western banks making these loans often knew exactly what was happening to the money, as, for example, with banks who made loans to the Apartheid government in South Africa knowing that the regime was illegitimate and engaged in what the United Nations had determined to be "crimes against humanity."

The population in these countries are now being forced to toil to repay loans they never agreed to and never benefited from, and which were often used to terrorize them. Although International Law contains the concept of "odious debt" which need not be repaid because it was "imposed upon the people without their consent and by force of arms" and because the lender was therefore taking the risk of the investment, this concept has never been applied to the questionably incurred debts like the ones above.

Other Third World countries acquired crushing debt burdens when international loans made to private individuals and businesses were converted to public debt by local government decree. Again, the "public" in these poor countries must now repay debt although they never saw any of the money originally loaned.

And as with sharecroppers in the South, once debt is incurred, it is hard to climb out of the hole. During the 1980s and 90s, many heavily indebted countries struggled just to pay interest on the debt, keeping the debt the same, or took out new loans to pay the interest, getting deeper into debt.

Increasingly, the "public" in the developed North has also started paying for bad loans made by the international banking establishment. In 1982, the US government, the IMF and the World Bank (funded by taxpayers in wealthy nations) bailed out private banks that had made bad loans in Mexico, thus rewarding the private bank's stupidity and carelessness.

This has increasingly become the pattern. When currency speculators recently plunged Asia into crisis by suddenly pulling their money out after years of offering credit and buying local currencies for investment, the IMF stepped in to issue $120 billion of "emergency assistance" loans to the governments of Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia. These loans weren't used to help the millions who lost their jobs because of the crisis, nor were they used to recapitalize locally owned industries forced into bankruptcy when foreign credit dried up. Instead, the international loans (paid for by Western taxpayers) were used to pay off private banks and investors who had made their own investments worthless when they suddenly pulled out. For years rich investors were free to reap massive profits investing in Asia, but when it came time to pay, Western taxpayers bailed them out.

This transfer of privately held debt and risk to the public sector in the North sharply illustrates how the global financial system is designed to rob the Third World of its resources, and ultimately rob the public in the developed world as well. The global financial system is a scam to benefit a tiny proportion of the world's population who make money off their money alone.

In the face of the increasing international pressure to deal with Third World debt, the IMF and the World Bank have drawn up a list of 42 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) that they have targeted for very limited debt relief. The Jubilee 2000 list of 52 countries includes the 42 HIPCs plus 10 more. The so-called HIPC Initiative falls far short of actual debt cancellation or relief, and in reality represents just another IMF/World Bank attempt to force Structural Adjustment programs on these countries. In order to get limited relief (debt would be reduced to a "sustainable" level), each HIPC has to comply with strict IMF rules for six years before getting any relief. These countries must pay 20-25 percent of all export earnings towards debt, double the amount paid by Germany after World War II.

What Is To Be Done

Given the severity of Third World debt and the massive injustices, dislocations and environmental destruction it is causing, debt must be addressed more widely than in the 52 countries targeted by Jubilee 2000. No large countries or countries with really huge debts, like Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, etc. are included in the Jubilee 2000 demand, yet debt in these countries is forcing these populations into a form of debt peonage just as in smaller countries.

Third world countries have a wild card in the international debt arena: the idea of a credit strike. If all Third World countries, or even a proportion of them, simply refused to make any further payment, the international economy would be destroyed, casting the developed world and the Third World alike into financial disaster. A credit strike would be like a financial form of nuclear war: both attacker and attacked would likely be destroyed. However, the developed world has more to lose, and could easily make significant and overdue concessions. Part of the reason a credit strike has not been discussed more, given the severity of the debt burden born by so many billions of people around the world, is that most governments in Third World nations (everywhere, in fact) are not run for the benefit of the population, but rather for elites, who benefit greatly from the continuation and expansion of global trade and the global financial system.

crushing international debt

If the proposal put forth by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition is a first step, then the next steps must be organizing popular movements of resistance around the globe to put an end to the supremacy of elites.

Until then, just getting debt relief for the poorest 52 countries in the world will be a significant struggle. To get involved, contact your local Jubilee 2000 campaign, or try the national office: 202 783-3566, 222 E. Capitol St. N.E., Washington DC 20003. In the Bay Area contact International forum on Globalization, 1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415 771-3394 or Global Exchange, 2017 Mission Street, #303, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415 255-7296.

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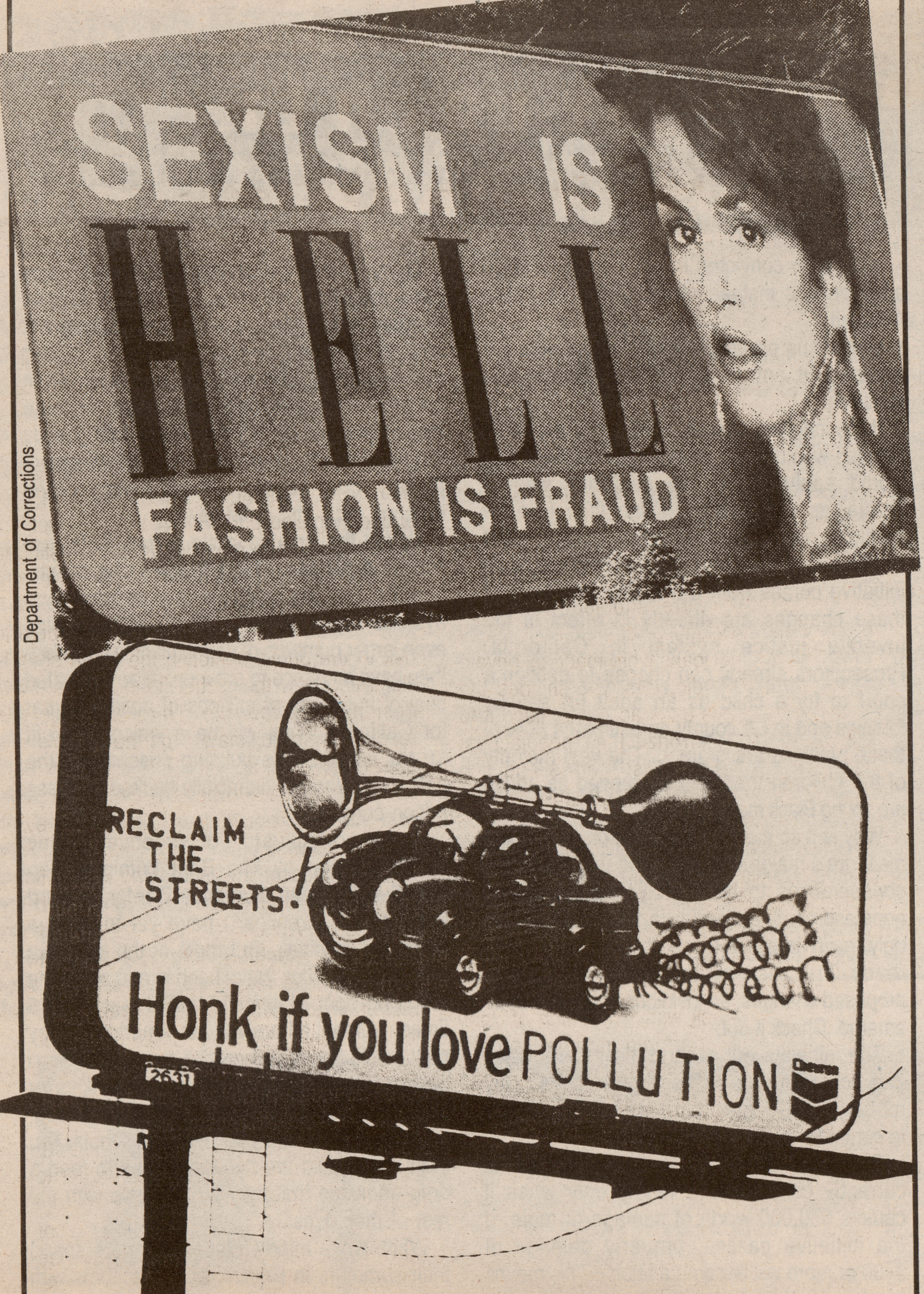


Department of Corrections

Masters of the Night with Wheatpaste and Spraypaint

Two recent examples of the art and science of billboard alteration. Billboard alteration is a time honored way to resist the rising tide of corporate control and media/advertising brainwashing by seizing and transforming their own propaganda. All you need is an idea, darkness, art supplies, some friends to keep lookout and your courage. This is do-it-yourself at its finest, so go for it.

Poverty Draft

Military Bait-and-Switch Recruiting

by Yael Grauer

They wanted your parents and they're going to want your children. They want your brothers and sisters too. No, I'm not talking about aliens or even the FBI. I'm talking about the United States Military.

Armed with their glossy pamphlets, catchy slogans and false promises, recruiters are taking our shopping malls, unemployment offices, amusement parks and high schools. They're not really looking for good fits, they're looking for numbers. And they will promise the world to meet their quotas.

The targets? Recruiters target high-achieving students in low-income communities and communities of color. The military has a humongous advertising budget, and lately they've been placing ads in Hispanic magazines and have hired Spike Lee to do a series of Navy ads.

Recruiters promise money for college, but fail to mention the fact that less than half of the recruits ever see a dime. There's a required $1200 deposit – which is nonrefundable. According to the Army Times, between 1986 and 1993 the U.S. Military took $720 million more in nonrefundable deposits than it paid out. There's your money for college, boys and girls – if you don't fulfill your term, are discharged for any reason or decide not to attend school, there goes your twelve hundred dollars. Military advertising would have you believe that if you join, $30,000 for your college education is yours. But in order to get $30,000 you must qualify for the Army or Navy College Fund, something only a small percentage of enlistees are able to do.

Otherwise the maximum you can get is $15,575 for four years of school.

But there's something more disturbing about the promise of money for college, and that's that recruiters are using it as a way to target people in low-income communities who aren't sure whether or not they can afford college and feel like they have no other choice.

Military advertisements and recruiters also promise job training. It is true that the military provides a limited amount of training. But Magnum and Ball, Ohio State researchers who received funding from the military, found that only 12% of male veterans and 6% of female veterans surveyed made any use of skills learned in the military in their civilian jobs. Barley concludes, "The evidence on rates of return to training and the probability of finding a job in one's chosen occupation, strongly suggests that, all else being equal, young people should look to sources of training other than the military if they wish to optimize their careers." The military may train you in a certain area, but you could be assigned somewhere different.

If you do get to work in the field of your choice (which, by the way, is highly unlikely) there's another catch. The military is set up so that its G.I.s are expendable We can't have anybody getting too skilled and have too much expertise if they might get shot and killed the next day, right?

Jobs are very simple and easy to teach to others should it become necessary.

In the words of former Secretary of Defense Cheney, "The reason to have a military is to be prepared to fight and win wars. That is our basic fundamental mission. The military is not a social welfare agency, it's not a jobs program."

Lastly, the army promises travel and adventure. What's so exciting about following a bunch of orders and being potential cannon fodder is beyond me. And of course the military fails to mention conditions in the military.

It is saddening that recruiters target poor people of color for recruitment because it knows that they are the most vulnerable to these false recruiting promises because they are trying to find a way out of poor communities.

Once enlisted, however, the military offers them little other than the opportunity to murder other people of color worldwide and face rampant racism and harassment in the ranks. According to the U.S. Commission on Human Rights, while 32% of enlisted personnel in 1992 were people of color, only 13% of officers were people of color. But the military has no problem using people of color as cannon fodder: half the military's frontline troops are of color.

If you are interested in financing college without joining the military and want information on non-violent alternatives, or have questions about draft registration, or would like to organize counter-recruitment in your area, contact the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors at CCCO, 630 20th Street, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-465-1617, Fax 510 465-2459 oakland@objector.org or CCCO, 1515 Cherry St Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-563-8787, Fax 215-567-2096.

Privacy Under Attack!

Recent FCC decisions have opened the door for increased FBI surveillance into our private lives. In an August 30, 1999 decision, the FCC laid out new regulations requiring telecommunications carriers to install equipment providing increased surveillance capacity to law enforcement as part of the implementation of the 1994 Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

Supposedly passed to combat terrorism and kidnapping in the digital age, CALEA was intended to provide law enforcement access to new digital technology WITHOUT expanding their surveillance powers. The reality is proving to be far different. In practice, if the FBI asks, the FCC complies.

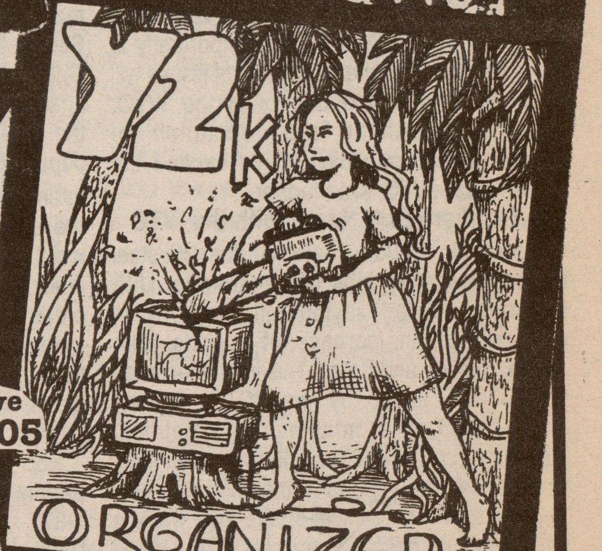
Cell phone users beware, the new guidelines require your cellular company to provide location information whenever a call is initiated or terminated. Currently this information is usually limited to the general radius of the tower your call is going through, but many carriers are able (by measuring the strength of the incoming signal as it reaches multiple towers) to pinpoint your location to within a yard or two and, under the new rulings, must provide this information when requested.

Conference calls aren't safe either. The new rulings allow wiretapping to continue on a conference call *after* the original party has disconnected, even though the warrant doesn't extend to those still on the line.

Most chilling of all are the new provisions allowing the monitoring of packet-switched communications, specifically internet traffic. Despite the objections of electronic privacy advocates, the FCC approved the FBI's request to allow this form of monitoring, even though there is no legal authority (in CALEA or elsewhere) for them to do so.

To find out how you can get involved in the fight to keep the government out of our private lives, contact any of the following groups: The Electronic Freedom Foundation www.eff.org, the Electronic Privacy Information Center www.epic.org, or the American Civil Liberties Union www.aclu.org.

–T.R. Croyle



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W orld T rashers O ut

Thousands to descend on Seattle

Continued from page 1

agreements such as NAFTA override national, state and local laws, particularly on environmental and labor issues. Rulings by trade tribunals have weakened efforts to use the Marine Mammal Protection Act to save dolphins from tuna nets and the Endangered Species Act to keep giant turtles from shrimp nets. What's to stop a DDT producing nation from challenging EPA regulations regarding pesticide usage. Where does it end? It doesn't.

The good news is that by all accounts so far, demonstrators will outnumber the 5,000 delegates and trade envoys from the 150 countries planning on attending the Seattle Round. The number of people becoming aware of this event and its ramifications continues to grow. According to Michael Dolan, working on behalf of the Citizens' Trade Campaign that represents over 700 international groups, the events will be "...historic...the confrontations in Seattle will define how the bridge to the 21st century will be built and who will be crossing it—transnational corporations or civil society."

Organizers are predicting that the protest will bring 100,000 people into the streets. Motel rooms and meeting spaces are already booked as well as most flights to Seattle. Steelworkers have already reserved 1,000 hotel rooms in Tacoma and Bellevue and Longshoremen say they are bringing 3,000-5,000. The AFL-CIO has dispatched two full-time field organizers to coordinate a massive march and rally set for November 30. There is rumor of a procession of tractors from farm groups like the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Campaign to Reclaim Rural America. Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and Friends of the Earth are mobilizing their memberships. Labor representatives from India, militant anti-capitalists from Germany and AIDS activist are all making plans including forming a human chain around the Washington State Trade and Convention Center in downtown Seattle where the WTO conference will be held.

The Agenda

Several interests and agendas are being brought to the table at the Seattle meeting; however, there are three main sets of issues to be discussed by the trade ministers. The first one includes reviews for past agreements such as agriculture and intellectual property, the second will discuss whether there should be future negotiations concerning agriculture and services. Lastly and most importantly is the question of whether a new set of issues will be moved under the control of the WTO, namely investment and regulation of competition policy which would expand the power of the WTO even further.

Steelworkers Butt Heads with the WTO

More than 10,000 workers in the US steel industry lost their jobs this year when U.S. factories started laying off workers in response to an increase of imports from Japan, Russia, and Brazil. This import increase was partly caused by the WTO's "sister" organization, the infamous International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF urged countries to increase their exports to the U.S. as a way to get out of the financial straits they were in as a result of past IMF policies. The United State Steel Workers of America joined with steel industry leaders to ask the President for emergency relief. However, Clinton said he would not offer any help because WTO rules don't allow such an action.

WTO and the environment

The Clinton administration's biggest concern at the meeting is making sure they get the "global free logging agreement" signed. This agreement would expand world consumption of paper, pulp, and other wood products by almost 4%. By getting rid of tariffs on forest products it could also pose a threat to endangered forests and biodiversity. The passage of this agreement could also threaten important environmental legislation that the WTO considers "barriers to trade" such as the ban on the export of raw logs from most public lands which was created to protect endangered forests.

The worldwide challenge to the WTO and its policies reflects a growing recognition from civil society that the decisions of this powerful institution have a huge impact on our lives and livelihoods. The Seattle Round of the WTO offers a unique opportunity to organize in our own communities, build alliances with other groups affected by corporate globalization and help to create a sustainable anti-trade movement in the United States. Remember, the trade ministers and corporate heads won't consider how people will be affected by their actions. They don't have to – they are generally accountable to no one.

The time is now. Take action! Join the thousands of activists taking to the streets of Seattle for direct action and demonstrations. Only a massive worldwide outcry against the agenda of the WTO can stop the effects that the liberalization of trade will have on world populations. Stop the WTO and its regime intent on setting the rules of exploitation and the spread of global capitalism. Spread the word about the WTO. Some members of the labor community are urging that people pressure local officials and congress members to oppose the launch of a new round of WTO talks in Seattle and to propose an assessment of its affects to date before they commit further atrocities.

For a schedule of anti-WTO events in Seattle or to help with preparations contact 1-877- STOP WTO. For information on the November 30th rally, contact the King County Labor Council at 206-441-8510. On the World Wide Web: www.tradewatch.org; www.peopleforfairtrade.org; www. seattle-wto.org.

The good news is that by all accounts so far the demonstrators will outnumber the trade delegates . . .

Don't give up on the Kids

Juvenile Crime Prevention Act would flush rehabilitation

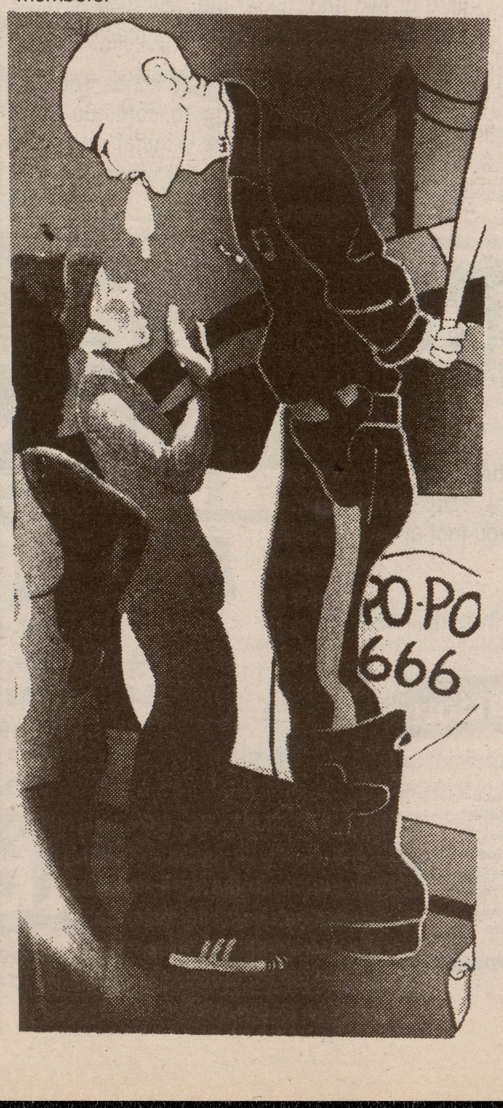
Continued from page 1

- any youth convicted in adult court serve in adult prisons instead of the California Youth Authority.
- eliminating pre-trial release for kids who are accused of any of 30 crimes listed in the initiative.

If the initiative passes, children who commit felonies would have 'strikes' against them that would apply to the life sentence without parole, as opposed to having their juvenile criminal record sealed. One of the most depressing aspects of the juvenile crime ballot initiative comes from the reality that most of these changes are already in effect in the juvenile justice system in California. Prosecutors already can choose to petition a court to try a child as an adult for serious felonies and in LA county an estimated 80% of these petitions are granted. The vast majority of the children tried and sentenced as adults are young Black men.

Why is it so easy for Pete Wilson, one of the measure's major sponsors, and the rest of the conservatives to write off young people as hopeless criminals and turn their back on the ugly reality in which these children live? If one reads the rest of the ballot initiative's proposed changes, an insidious intent begins to emerge. Check it out:

- The initiative will expand the list of crimes that count as one of the 'three strikes'. Any robbery, first degree burglary, or conspiracy to commit crime would be a strike.
- Property damage (or vandalism) is currently considered a felony only when it causes $50,000 worth of damage or more. If the initiative passes, property damage of $400 or more will become a felony. This means tagging a school desk with a magic marker, for instance, could be a felony.
- Punishment for vandalism under $400 would go from 6 months up to a year in county jail.
- Invents a new crime: conspiracy to commit a felony. An associated gang member, who, it could be argued, encouraged or benefited from the commitment of the felony could be charged with a felony, even though he or she did not commit the crime.
- Makes gang recruiting a felony.
- Prosecutors can petition for the death penalty for gang-related murder.
- Longer sentences for gang members.
- Expands the use of wiretaps against gang members.



- Gang members must register themselves as gang members with the police. If a teen is charged with a gang-related crime and has not registered, he will be charged with two crimes instead of one. The initiative, especially when coupled with the long term crack cocaine sentencing and the Three Strikes rule, clearly targets minority youth who commit crimes of poverty: drug dealing, stealing, gang-related violence, etc. This is not news.

Half of the inmates in the United States are African American. The initiative's proponents, feeding on the public's out-of-proportion hysteria about crime, seek to institutionalize even larger numbers of young black men before they have a chance to grow up, at an estimated cost of hundreds of millions of dollars a year for California. This will be a welcome profit for the corporations building prisons and the politicians who are financially backed by these prison corporations.

As a co-facilitator of creative writing workshops run by The Beat Within in San Francisco's Youth Guidance Center, a short term jail for juveniles, I have yet to meet a hardened criminal. But most of the kids, like most adult inmates, have been in and out of the revolving door of juvenile hall at least 4 or 5 times. Almost all are African American. They deal crack, boost clothes and cars, some even commit violent offenses. Many have junkies for parents, many have family members in prison; most are at least one year behind in school. Too many have sold their young bodies to feed a drug addiction that they will struggle with the rest of their lives.

While white middle class teenagers spend their summers in France, attend schools with starring sports teams and advanced placement classes, learn to play musical instruments and go to camp, poor black kids are left with few of these mind expanding experiences that push them to envision a bright future as an adult. Those incarcerated in juvenile halls are particularly starved for these opportunities.

The once a week Beat Within workshop, run through the Pacific News Service is one of precious few programs that offer kids an alternative to this bleak reality. For one hour a week, teens can write raps, stories and autobiographies to be printed in a weekly zine. But if the ballot initiative passes, it will become even more difficult for outside programs like The Beat to reach teens since they will be housed in adult prisons.

Because of the inability of progressives to reclaim the debate on the side of rehabilitation and amelioration of poverty, programs like The Beat Within must struggle to survive instead of being integrated into a comprehensive institutional program to help young people develop other identities beyond that of a gang-banger. As long as California politics continues to be dominated by reactionary initiatives like the juvenile crime initiative proposed by Pete Wilson and his contemporaries, progressives have little choice but to spend all their resources just trying to defeat these proposals, when we should be pushing an alternate vision for not only how to treat young people committing crimes, but how to prevent crimes that are truly a symptom of a larger disease: racialized poverty in the United States.

If the Juvenile Crime and Gang Violence Prevention Act becomes law, we will have only ourselves as voters to thank for it. But with grassroots activism, the initiative can be defeated. Get the word out, tell everyone you know about this initiative and get involved in local efforts to defeat the initiative. Contact the Critical Resistance Youth Force at(510)-444-0484 to find out how. You can also learn more about The Beat Within by contacting David Inocencio at the Pacific News Service by emailing him at yo@pacificnews.org or by phone 415-438-4755.

• Gang members must register themselves as gang members with the police.

Malaysia
Indonesia
East Timor
Australia

Just Do It

US complicit in violence in East Timor massacre

by Beer-Dead Laidee

Following the September 4th announcement of the vote for independence in East Timor, wave upon wave of violence has wreaked havoc in this small island nation. The mainstream media finally lifted the veil of silence on East Timor after 24 years of brutal repression at the hands of the Indonesian military.

What they are not telling us is that the US government has been selling arms to, training and otherwise supporting the Indonesian military since the occupation began. The economic interests of US corporations have been dictating US policy in Indonesia and thus facilitating the willful ignorance of the repression in East Timor. If one only listens to mainstream news sources one gets the impression that the militias are an "out-of-control" force unconnected to the military. To the contrary, it is clear that the military is in control of the militias, and that the US is supporting the military. According to Allan Nairn, an American journalist recently imprisoned for a week by the Indonesian military, the militias and the military share facilities and information and are essentially branches of the same force.

East Timor was a Portuguese colony until 1975 when the Portuguese left as part of their decolonization plan. Since the Indonesian invasion, over 1/3 of the East Timorese population has been killed by occupying forces. The US is saying that their relationship with the Indonesians has made it possible to negotiate for a peacekeeping force to be brought into East Timor. If the US had withheld support and funding to the Indonesians in the first place, the occupation and the current terror in East Timor would have been impossible.

As of this writing an international peacekeeping force of 8,000, led by the Australians is on its way to East Timor. Since it was predicted that if the Timorese voted for independence, the military backed militias would bring destruction to East Timor, one wonders why this force was not present earlier or other precautions taken. Perhaps because of the racism of the western nations that essentially run the UN. Or perhaps because the US is more interested in stable relations with the current Indonesian regime than in the right to self-determination of, or even the survival of, the East Timorese people.

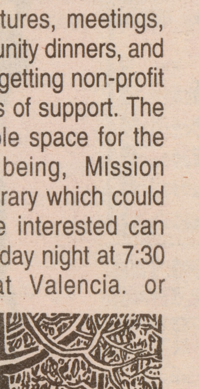
Epicenter Zone

FREE RADICAL

Out of the Ashes

As reported in the last issue of Slingshot, Epicenter Zone is no more. However, past members and supporters of the collective are planning on creating a new space called Free Radical. With this new space they hope to encompass the breadth contained in an infoshop/community center which would include a spot for performances, lectures, meetings, the sale of local goods, community dinners, and a cafe. They are planning on getting non-profit status as an additional means of support. The search is still on for a suitable space for the project but for the time being, Mission Records is housing a zine library which could use some volunteers. Those interested can come to a meeting every Sunday night at 7:30 at 3213 Mission Street at Valencia. or contact:

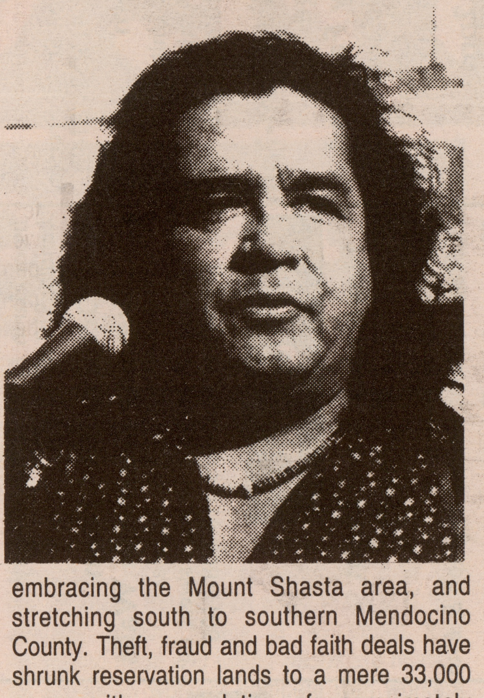
the free radical
c/o Janice Flux
p.o. box 16651
San Francisco, CA
94116-0651
magdalene@jesusshaves.com
or call Todd at 415-776-4654



Free At Last

Native American Bear Lincoln freed but justice eludes Round Valley

by Karen Pickett



After four months underground in fear of his life, more than two years behind bars awaiting trial, the death penalty hanging over his head, and a two month high profile trial, the legal ordeal is finally over for Bear Lincoln. On April 23, 1999, the California state Attorney General's office dismissed the case against him that had been filed in the wake of a police ambush on the Round Valley Indian Reservation in northern California that left his lifelong friend, Leonard Acorn Peters, dead. The weight of watching his friend shot down and killed and being under fire himself will forever be with him. Mendocino county sheriff's deputies had set up a stake out on a ridgetop the night of April 14, 1995 to capture a suspect in a shooting earlier that day. When Bear and Acorn, both Wailaki Indian men, came walking up the road from Bear's cabin, the cops opened fire in a barrage of automatic weapons fire that left Deputy Bob Davis dead as well as Peters. Bear ran for his life and was later charged with Deputy Davis' death in a case that would capture national attention and galvanize the rural Native American community as well as Mendocino county.

After he turned himself in, in August of 95 after living deep in the woods for four months, the county went after him with a vengeance, charging him with a capital crime, thereby bringing in the death penalty and framing it as a purposeful act of aggression, rather than an innocent person caught in police ambush, carrying a right to defend himself, even though neither Lincoln nor Peters were suspects in any crime when they were ambushed. The authority's treatment of the Round Valley community immediately following the April 95 incident smacked of racism as well. Police from several counties descended on the community, busting down doors, conducting warrentless searches, dragging people out of cars in a reign of terror designed to get the largely Native American community to produce the elusive Bear Lincoln. Bear had run and was in hiding because of his belief that trigger happy cops would prefer to wrap the whole thing up quickly by shooting him on sight, with the rationalization that this was a cop-killing Indian, no questions asked.

Tensions between residents, especially Native Americans in the valley and authorities, have deep roots. The Round Valley, a beautiful and fertile valley ringed by snow-dusted peaks, is almost perfectly symmetrical. It is the ancestral home of (what came to be known as) the Yuki people, who lived in harmony with the earth until the mid-1800's, when the US government began its program of genocide on California's north coast. The Round Valley Indian Reservation was established in 1853, when the remainder of six tribes in addition to the Yuki--Wailaki, Pomo, Pit River, Little Lake, Konkow and Nomlaki--were all forced into a portion of Yuki territory, along with Indian-hating white settlers. These were tribes whose ancestral lands covered vast areas reaching over what is now the Oregon border, embracing the Mount Shasta area, and stretching south to southern Mendocino County. Theft, fraud and bad faith deals have shrunk reservation lands to a mere 33,000 acres, with a population of approximately 1200 tribal residents. Although throwing together seven tribes from far-flung regions and severely diminishing overall tribal lands seems a recipe for discord, residents have set up a tribal infrastructure that includes a tribal council, housing authority, a health center and a substance abuse clinic.

This reservation, the second largest in California, retains valuable ancestral fishing grounds along the Eel River and Azbil Creek, and still holds old growth Douglas fir forests, so far resisting timber beasts like Louisiana Pacific, who have devastated lands all around the reservation. The LP mill in the town of Covelo, adjacent to the reservation land, was a principal employer until it shut down in 1990, finding cheaper labor in Mexico.

While authorities and mainstream media are quick to characterize problems in the valley as intra-community disputes, or "feuds" between families, residents point to racist policies and a pattern of selective enforcement of the law by county authorities as the real reason violence and tension continue to erupt. The cops' dance of selective enforcement includes sidestepping real issues, turning away from beatings and shootings that go unprosecuted, and pouncing on certain members of the community for less serious violations.

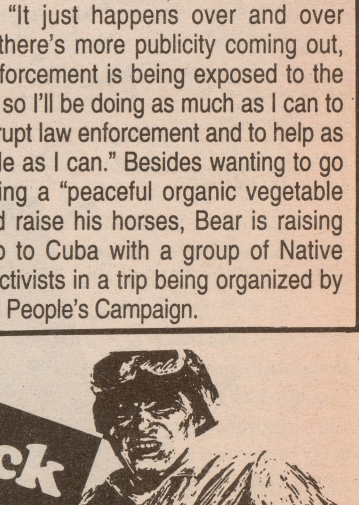
Is change on the horizon? At least the incidents in 1995 and the aftermath galvanized the community to take a more united and political stand, and have certainly politicized Bear Lincoln. Bear was calm, focused and strong throughout his trial and incarceration, as his case was argued by Tony Serra, famed San Francisco attorney who has involved himself in other Native American cases, including that of Patrick Hooty Croy in 1989. After being released from jail in September of 1997 after an all-white jury acquitted him of most of the charges, he has found himself a political voice and has spoken at rallies for Mumia Abu Jamal, Leonard Peltier and conferences challenging police abuse and the prison industry.

But when the jury delivered the not guilty verdict, Bear was released from his prison cell, but not from the clutches of this case. The jury, though many of them became activists as a result of the experience and appeared at public forums to speak of the cover-up they felt the police had perpetrated, were not able to arrive at a unanimous vote on manslaughter charges, though their acquittal was unanimous on murder and attempted murder charges. With a 10-2 deadlock in favor of acquittal, the door was open for district attorney Susan Massini to pursue those charges via a second trial. She pursued this with a vengeance, referring the case to the state attorney general's office when she lost her re-election bid last November, which is why the case was dragged out until this April, four years after the incident. Despite jury tampering, a contempt of court charge against the DA (for feeding information illegally to the county's major newspaper), the county authorities were not about to let the death of a cop go unavenged, although the most likely scenario is that the cop was killed by his partner's weapon after he (admittedly) slipped on the dirt road and came up firing.

Because of the impossibility of the other cop ever being charged, tension remains in the community and in Bear's life. Although legally released at long last, a pall hangs over his freedom due to the cops' desire for vengeance and the vulnerability of people in this remote and rural place, removed from the public eye. Additionally, the unprovoked killing of Leonard Acorn Peters was never adequately investigated. Seven children were left fatherless and Round Valley lost a loved and loving community member.

Meanwhile, Bear is raising Appaloosa horses he brought to California 4 1/2 years ago from the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho shortly before his life was turned upside down, and continuing to speak out in solidarity with other victims of police violence and frame ups as well as on issues like Headwaters Forest. The comparison many have made to incidents occurring on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, which landed Leonard Peltier in jail 24 years ago are not lost on Bear. When he expresses that he wants to see an investigation of the police murder of his friend Acorn, however unlikely that might be, he sees the public knowledge of these abuses on the reservation and elsewhere as key. "I'll continue to speak out against police brutality, police murder", he said the day his case was dismissed. "It just happens over and over again, but there's more publicity coming out, and law enforcement is being exposed to the public. And so I'll be doing as much as I can to expose corrupt law enforcement and to help as many people as I can." Besides wanting to go back to being a "peaceful organic vegetable farmer" and raise his horses, Bear is raising funds to go to Cuba with a group of Native American activists in a trip being organized by the National People's Campaign.

SF Food Not Bombs Under Attack



Once again, San Francisco Food Not Bombs has been approached by the SF Police and told to stop serving free food. San Francisco Food Not Bombs has a long history of harassment and repression on the part of City government and the police. For many years they were routinely arrested, food confiscated, threats made by the police to members, and literature and banners seized. In 1988, police repeatedly made arrests in Golden Gate Park and in Civic Center under the Agnos' administration. Art Agnos was able to secure a court injunction against FNB - making it illegal for FNB to serve free food in public. Mayor Frank Jordan also ordered hundreds arrested at FNB's daily community meals in Civic Center and the United Nations Plaza. In the last major election, almost 4 years ago - Mayor Willie Brown pledged that he would not arrest FNB and that he would dismantle the matrix program which targeted homeless people for 'quality of life' infractions which lead to mass ticketing and police sweeps. While Mayor Brown ended the arrests against FNB, homeless people have faced even greater persecution. It has been almost 4 years since the last arrest for serving free food.

On September 3 and September 12, FNB servers were approached by the police and told that they must stop serving free food. On September 3rd, two FNB servers were given citations.

It appears that with the election race for Mayor heating up, someone wants to remove a visible sign of protest against reactionary city policy and economic inequality in general.

Food Not Bombs has vowed to continue free, open, public community meals - serving dinner every night at United Nations Plaza around 5:30-6 pm.

Please contact the Mayor, the District Attorney and the Board of Supervisors and express your concern about this situation and support for FNB. Don't arrest free food!

Action Calendar

October

October 7-11
Queerruption New York City • radical queer encuentro 718 670-3719

October 8 - 12
Grassroots Media Conf. & Culture Jam
Austin, Texas. (512) 459-1619 gnn@grassrootsnews.org

October 8-11
Nevada test site fall gathering
Workshop on Yucca Mt.,Plan Spring Gathering,Sunrise Ceremony 702 647-3095

October 9 • 3-7pm
Gran Fiesta
Benefit for Mujeres Unidas y Activas
El Rio, 3158 Mission St. @ Precita, SF. Tickets & Info: 415/621-8140.

October 15 • 6pm
PUEBLO - People United for a Better Oakland 10th Anniversary Dinner Ticket Info: 510/452-2010.

October 16 • 10am-7pm
Living Wage Community Fair and Congress, Horace Mann Middle School, SF Contact: Karl Kramer 415/243-8133.

October 22 • 2pm
Stop Police Brutality Day
march from 24th & Mission SF to City hall for 4pm rally evening indoor cultural program

October 24-26
Worker Cooperative Conference
Detroit, OR info Rebecca Bauen 510-839-0408

October 26 • 7:30pm
Against the Grain - The Dangers of Genetic Engineering Of Crops
Santa Rosa New College, 707-874-1557 OAEC, $5 donation

October 29 • 6pm
San Francisco Critical Mass
Justin Herman Plaza,Embarcadero BART ride in costume!

October 30
Richmond bridge protest
Trick or Treat Ride in costume 10:30am Richmond BART from Marin 11:30 Larkspur Ferry Landing510 898-3038

October 30 • 10am
Running Down the Walls
Griffith Park in Los Angeles
Help LA activists break a sweat for political prisoners 310-608-4106

November

November 5 • 6:30pm
East Bay Women's Critical Mass.
Meet at Mama Bears Telegraph & 65th

November 7 • 2pm
Peoples Park Community Garden
meeting,West end of the Park 510 658-9178

November 10-14
Creating Change Oakland National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 510-834-6333

November 12 • 5:30pm
East Bay Critical Mass
Meet at Berkeley BART

November 14
Immigrant Pride Day 99
Location: Excelsior District , SF. Contact: Jimmy or Jose 415/243-8215 x368.

November 16 • 6:30 pm
Latin American Solidarity Cultural Event and Benefit
La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley Dinner, music, art and more.

November 26
Buy Nothing Day

November 29- December 3
Shut Down the World Trade Organization
Seattle 206 632 1656

December

December 12 • 4pm
Slingshot new volunteer meeting
Long Hall 3124 Shattuck, Berk.

December 30-January 2
Peace Walk to Nevada Test Site
from Las Vegas 702 646-4814

January-October 2000
Global Peace Walk
Starts in SF. 415 267-1877

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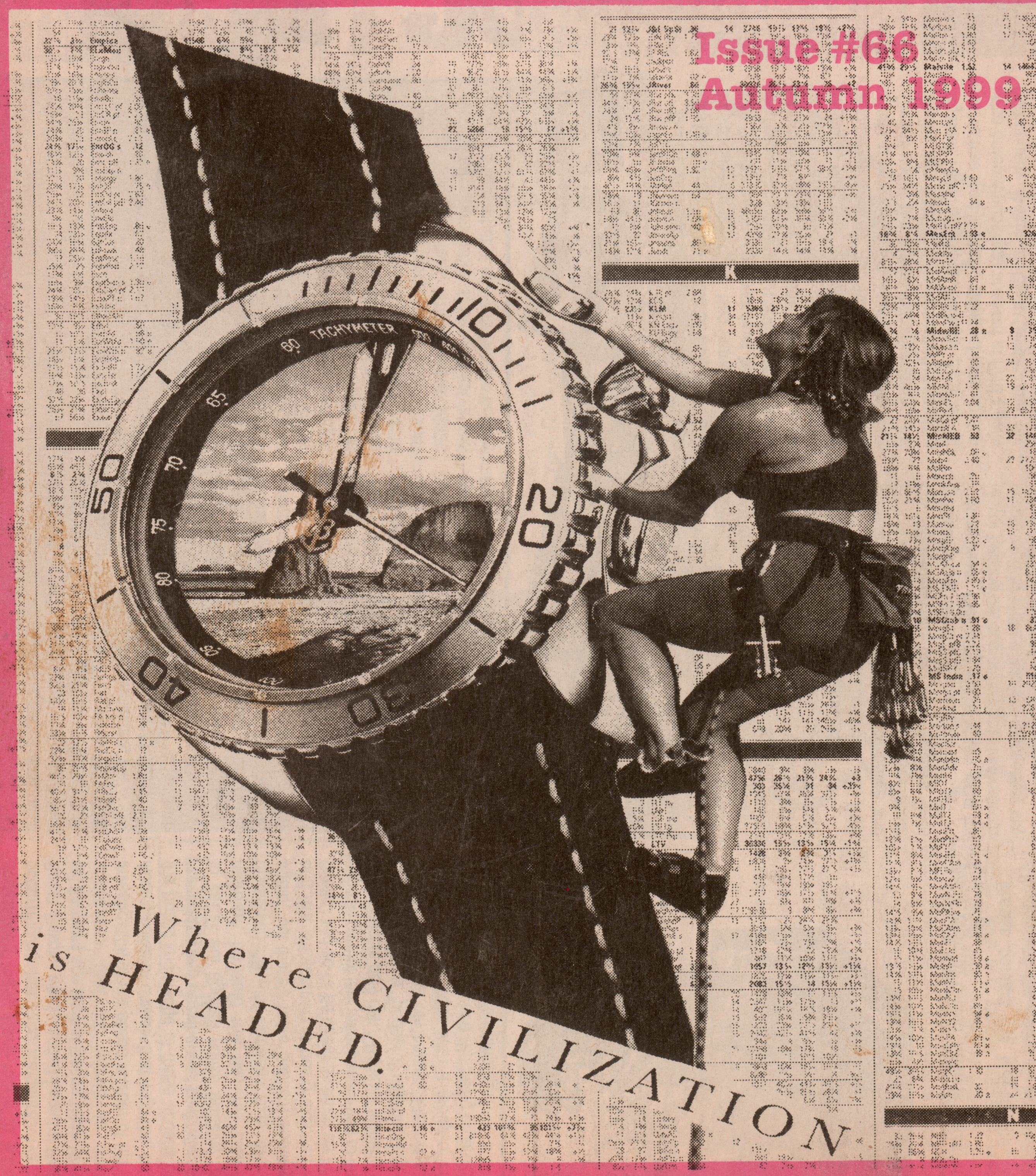
SLINGSHOT



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